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## The Cultural and Historical Legacy of Acad. Stefan Mladenov (1880–1963)

**Abstract:** The article is dedicated to the life and professional path of Acad. Stefan Mladenov (1880–1963) as commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. It summarizes the cultural and historical dimensions of his research, which has remained eternal in time. The emphasis is placed on his personal documents kept at the Scientific Archive of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (SA-BAS). They are described and analyzed in historical and research perspectives with a focus on those that are directly related to the Bulgarian-Polish scientific relations in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A list of the selected studies dedicated to the memory of Acad. Mladenov can be found after the article.

**Keywords:** archive – comparative and Indo-European linguistics – etymology – Bulgarian-Polish scientific relations – Mladenov Stefan (1880–1963)

To write about distinguished scholars like academician Stefan Mladenov (1880–1963) in the context of the history of linguistics, is much more important today than ever before. Born two years after the Liberation of Bulgaria, S. Mladenov lived in the most turbulent and dynamic years of the modern history of Bulgaria, during the times when the new Bulgarian nation and the Bulgarian intelligentsia were being shaped to build the modern Bulgarian society. He witnessed the Unification of Bulgaria on September 6, 1885, when the Eastern Rumelia and the Principality of Bulgaria were unified after the split by the Berlin Congress in 1878. The tension on the Balkans led to the Serbo-Bulgarian War, which lasted from November 14 to November 28, 1885, and ended with a convincing victory for Bulgaria. The First Balkan War followed in a military conflict between the Ottoman Empire, on the one hand, and the allied Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Montenegro, on the other. It lasted from September 26, 1912, to May 17, 1913, and ended with a victory for the Balkan Union. The Second Balkan War (or the Inter-Allied War), the First World War and the Second World War, however, were just behind the corner... In these challenging years, Acad. S. Mladenov, with his wide-ranging scholarly and public activity and great personal authority, succeeded in awarding the Bulgarian language and Bulgarian linguistics their rightful place in the comparative and historical Slavic and Indo-European linguistics.

### Biographical data

S. Mladenov was born on December 15, 1880<sup>1</sup> in the town of Vidin<sup>2</sup>. Here, in 1897, he graduated from the classical department of the Vidin All-Male High School, and all researchers of his life (all biographers) emphasize his extraordinary interest in and gift for foreign languages. After graduating high school, he won a scholarship to study Slavic philology at the Faculty of History and Philology of the Higher School in Sofia<sup>3</sup> in the period 1898–1902. As a student, he began to write articles on Bulgarian and Slavic linguistics, while retaining his interest in foreign languages, along with their dialects and their history – he spoke over 25 foreign languages (at varying degrees of fluency)<sup>4</sup>. His professors at the university were internationally recognized

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1 In new-style date this is December 27, 1880 (in connection with the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, when in Bulgaria March 31, 1916 was followed by April 14, 1916).

2 The town of Vidin is located in the northwestern part of Bulgaria, on the banks of the Danube River, and has a rich centuries-old history.

3 Today Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

4 His first scholarly work was published while he was still a student and was titled “Към въпроса за езика и националната принадлежност на Ново село, Видинско”. It was published in “Сборник за Народни Умотворения, Наука и Книжнина” 1901, Vol. 18, pp. 471–506.

scholars such as Aleksander Teodorov-Balan, Lyubomir Miletich, Benyo Tsonev. S. Mladenov was deemed a disciple and successor of B. Tsonev (after Tsonev's death he edited and published his most important works).

Between 1903 and 1912, he specialized in Slavic and comparative Indo-European linguistics in Vienna (1903–1904), Saint Petersburg (1904), Prague (1905), Paris (1911), and Munich (1912). This international experience also enriched his broad knowledge in the field of linguistics. He had the exclusive opportunity to listen to the lectures of the greatest scholars in the field of Slavic and Indo-European studies at the time, such as Vatroslav Jagić, Konstantin Jireček, Jan Baudouin de Courtenay, Aleksej Sobolevski, Pjotr Lavrov, Ivan Polivka, Jozef Zubaty, Tomáš Masaryk, Antoine Meillet, and others. He defended his doctorate in philology at the University of Prague in 1905<sup>5</sup>.

Before being elected as a full-time associate professor at Sofia University in 1910, he was a teacher for a short time at the Shumen Pedagogical School, at the First Boys' Sofia High School, then at the Second Boys' High School in Sofia and at the Sofia Theological Seminary (1907–1910). He also fought in the Balkan and Inter-Allied Wars (1912–1913), and during the First World War he was a member of the Scientific Expedition to Macedonia and Morava Valley (1916), a scientific-reconnaissance mission organized by the Bulgarian army which sent university scholars to the newly occupied Bulgarian lands<sup>6</sup>. Later, he was elected as a full professor and a head of the Department of General, Comparative and Indo-European Linguistics at Sofia University, where he worked in the period 1921–1948. Here – as one of the most educated Bulgarian scholars in the field – he gave lectures on the entire range of linguistics – the history of the Bulgarian language, dialectology and syntax, Bulgarian accentology, Bulgarian etymology, Bulgarian homonymy (location names), Bulgarian literary language, introduction to the Indo-European linguistics, general linguistics, introduction to experimental phonetics, Old Indian, Gothic, Indo-European morphology, Old Bulgarian, among other. Together with Stefan Popvasilev, he started the publication of the popular scientific magazine “Rodna Rech” in the period 1927–1943, which later became a tribune of the Bulgarian language science and culture<sup>7</sup>.

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5 His doctoral dissertation is titled “*За промените в граматическия род в славянските езици*”. It was published in Bulgaria in 1907 in “Известия на Семинара по Славянска Филология при Университета в София”, Vol. 2, pp. 65–114.

6 The documents from his scientific expedition which included information about the Albanian elements in the Pristina and Prizren regions, are kept in the Scientific Archive of the BAS (No. 102, 282). He published them in a separate volume – “*Пътешествие из Македония и Поморавия: Доклад до Началник Щаба на Действащата армия в Кюстендил*”, Sofia 1916.

7 The bi-monthly magazine was in print for 16 years (it was discontinued during World War II). It published answers to questions by the readers about the meaning, origin and spelling of certain words and expressions and to support a critical attitude towards the use of foreign words, correct speech and spelling. Its motto were the words of Paisij Hilendarski: “Bulgarian, know your people and language”.

Meanwhile, he was elected as a corresponding member in 1918 and later became an academician of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where in 1951 he took the lead of the Department of the History of the Bulgarian Language and the Department of General Linguistics and Classical Languages. He was a member of the Bulgarian Archaeological Institute in Sofia since 1929, a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Leningrad (1929)<sup>8</sup>, a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow<sup>9</sup>, the Slavic Institute in Prague, King's College in London<sup>10</sup>, and the German Academy of Sciences. An interesting fact about him is that he became one of the largest supporters and contributors to the Bulgarian science when, after the end of the Second World War and the coming changes in society, on February 15, 1945, he donated BGN 140,000 to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the establishment of a Fund for studies on the Bulgarian language and comparative linguistics<sup>11</sup>.

### Scientific legacy

At his time, S. Mladenov was the most recognizable Bulgarian scholar in linguistics (historian of the Bulgarian language, phonetician, etymologist, Bulgarianist, Slavist, specialist in comparative Indo-European and general linguistics). His research legacy amounts to over 1,100 books, dictionaries, textbooks, studies, articles, linguistic notes. He published in over 50 foreign and in more than 70 Bulgarian scientific and popular scientific editions. His research concerns extremely important national issues – on the Bulgarian character of the Cyrillo-Methodian language, the historical continuity between the Old Bulgarian and the New Bulgarian languages, the territorial unity of the Bulgarian language – in the

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8 A testimony to the authority of S. Mladenov is the fact that he was the only Bulgarian scholar who, before the political change after September 9, 1944, was elected a member of this academy. The SA-BAS keeps the correspondence on this occasion (No. 983).

9 The SA-BAS keeps the letter and the telegram about his election as a corresponding member and an invitation to a congress on the occasion of the 400th Anniversary of the birth of Jan Kochanowski (No. 982).

10 The SA-BAS keeps the letter from Sir Bernard Pares, an English historian and diplomat, sent on June 7, 1925 with an invitation to Mladenov to become a corresponding member of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, a part of King's College London, University of London (No. 732, 1169). There is also an undated letter of invitation for a membership with the statutes of the French Académie des Sciences, Arts et Belles-Lettres (No. 986) attached.

11 According to documents from the SA-BAS, as of January 1, 1946, the fund had a capital of BGN 145,950, and in 1947 – BGN 146,447. In 1947, the work of Ivan Galabov was presented with the award. In the same year, the fund was merged into the newly created “Academy fund”. As of January 31, 1951, the capital amounted to BGN 154,994, and this is the last information about the fund. Cf. Ц. Величкова, *Български език*, Енциклопедия Дарителство, [online] <https://daritelite.bg/balgarski-%d0%b5zik-3/> [23.03.2023].

past and today, and its importance for the Indo-European and comparative linguistics. His most important works make a lasting impression with the breadth of his scientific interests and with the application of the most relevant research methods of the time. His major books are as follows: *Uvod v obshtoto ezikoznanie* (1927), *Geschichte der bulgarischen Sprache* (1929)<sup>12</sup>, *Rechnik na chizhdite dumi v balgarskija ezik s objasnenija za poteklo i sastav* (1932), *Sravnitelno indoevropsko ezikoznanie* (1936), *Gramatika na balgarskija ezik* (1939)<sup>13</sup>, *Etimologichen i pravopisen rechnik na savremennija balgarski knizhoven ezik* (1941), *Balgarski talkoven rechnik (s ogleđ na narodnite govori)* (1951)<sup>14</sup>.

### Appreciation

S. Mladenov was a highly regarded scholar in his lifetime – both from the international scientific community and from the Bulgarian public. The Bulgarian state highly appreciated the contributions of Mladenov to the Bulgarian science, education, and culture. Academic and administrative positions of S. Mladenov and the literature on his contribution and his work over the years<sup>15</sup> supported this observation. Before the political change following the end of the Second World War, he was the holder of the Commander's Cross of Poland, the National Order of Civil Merit<sup>16</sup>, the Order of Saint Alexander IV grade (officer's cross, 1929)<sup>17</sup>. In 1950, he received the Dimitrov Prize<sup>18</sup>, and in 1955, on his anniversary, the Order of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, I grade. He died on May, 1 1963 in the city of Sofia at the age of 83.

For the solemn celebration of his 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1956, Ekaterina Miĥaylova published a volume of his bibliography up to that year<sup>19</sup>. In the following

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12 The book was first published in Berlin and Leipzig in German, and was translated into Bulgarian only in 1979. It contains a map of the Bulgarian language territory, including all the lands inhabited by ethnic Bulgarians, which is still used for a basis in creating new maps.

13 In co-authorship with Stefan Popvasilev, a social and cultural activist, with whom they also edited the journal "Rodna Rech".

14 The dictionary was published in co-authorship with A. Teodorov-Balan. The history of its compilation is part of the description of Inventory 2.

15 The bibliography dedicated to the scholar and published in Bulgaria is given at the end of this article. It does not include the publications mentioned below in the volumes and the articles published in "Balgarski Ezik" journal in 1981.

16 It was awarded to political leaders, diplomats, foreign rulers, senior clergy, intellectuals, scientists, educators, doctors, among other.

17 It was awarded to military and civilian people for their public service, for bravery and as a sign of personal favor on the part of the monarch.

18 This was the highest state award in the People's Republic of Bulgaria for contributions in the field of science, arts and culture. It was named after Georgi Dimitrov, the communist leader and former Prime Minister of Bulgaria (1946–1949).

19 E. Miĥaylova, *Стефан Младенов: Биобиблиографски принос*, София 1956.

year, 1957, a collection was published in his honor, edited by Vladimir Georgiev, at that time director of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences<sup>20</sup>, and in 1981, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth (and almost 20 years since his death) the “Balgarski Ezik” and “Ezik i Literature” journals published a selection of articles on the language problems investigated by S. Mladenov, with an emphasis on their timeless and scholarly value. In 2005, the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences organized a conference dedicated to the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, entitled *The National Language in the Context of the Foreign Influences and Globalization*, with contributions published in a special volume<sup>21</sup>. The next international conference, again organized by the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of S. Mladenov, was held in 2019 and again raised the question of the historical and contemporary aspects of the Bulgarian language<sup>22</sup>.

The news of Mladenov’s death received a great international attention in 1963. It was published in the magazine “Revue des Etudes Slaves”<sup>23</sup>, to which he was a regular contributor in the period 1908–1916 and 1931–1939, providing information on the Bulgarian and Slavic studies published in Bulgaria. In the same year, his obituary was published in the “Zeitschrift für Slawistik”<sup>24</sup>, where also in 1980 a material was published on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth<sup>25</sup>. S. Mladenov ranked among notable Bulgarian linguists in various encyclopedias and reference books, and his scholarly contributions are heavily cited in a number of studies even today.

### The archival legacy of Stefan Mladenov

After the death of Mladenov, the search, preservation and restoration of his documentary legacy became a task of great scientific and cultural-historical value. Three monographs were dedicated to his biographical and archival legacy. The first of them was the already mentioned work by E. Mihaylova,

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20 *Езиковедски изследвания в чест на академик Стефан Младенов*, ред. В. Георгиев, София 1957.

21 *Националният език в условията на чужди влияния и глобализация. Доклади от Научна конференция, посветена на 125-годишнината от рождението на акад. Стефан Младенов (София, 26–29 юни 2005)*, София 2006.

22 *Българският език – исторически и съвременни аспекти. Сборник в чест на 140 години от рождението на акад. Стефан Младенов*, отг. ред. Лучия Антонова-Василева, София 2020.

23 R. Bernard, *Stefan Mladenov*, “Revue des Études Slaves” 1964, Vol. 43, No. 1/4, pp. 306–309.

24 M. Kostov, *Stefan Mladenov †*, “Zeitschrift für Slawistik” 1964, Vol. 9 (1–5), pp. 126–127.

25 L. Zeil, *Stefan Mladenovs Wahl zum Korrespondierenden Mitglied der Berliner Akademie der Wissenschaften im Jahre 1942*, “Zeitschrift für Slawistik” 1980, Vol. 24, pp. 907–915.

published in 1956, during Mladenov's lifetime<sup>26</sup>. More recent studies are published by Lilia Krumova-Tsvetkova<sup>27</sup> and again by Krumova-Tsvetkova and Elena Dzhunova<sup>28</sup>. In the first work, the author outlines the image of the man, the teacher and scholar S. Mladenov according to the information in his personal archive, kept in the SA–BAS, and from the memories of his contemporaries – students, disciples, colleagues. The discussion revolves around his scholarly work to highlight his contribution to the Bulgarian linguistics. The second study added an overview of the history of his lineage and family. The purpose of both works, as explicitly stated, was to pay tribute and offer appreciation to the work of the great scholar.

From today's point of view, however, a new reading of his personal documents, which are mainly kept in the SA–BAS, is necessary. They were donated by his wife Raina and his son Dobrin after his death in 1963. The documents were included in the newly created fund No. 154 K, Inventory 1, with a total of 52,719 sheets described and distributed in 1,332 archival units. The time period they cover is from 1898, when he was a student at the university, to 1963, the year of his death. The scientific and technical processing of S. Mladenov's documents was completed in September 1966 by Tsvetana Antova and Arman Levi<sup>29</sup>. The first article on the subject coauthored by the two scholars, was published two years later in the Bulletin of the SA–BAS<sup>30</sup>.

### Fund No. 154 K, Inventory 1.

The documents are described in five sections, as follows:

I. Biography materials (48 archival units). These are personal documents and photographic materials, membership and address cards, certificates and entrance cards of various societies, diplomas on his election as a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and other foreign academies, the 33-page autobiography without indication of place and date, written by Mladenov himself, which have served as the basis of the studies of his biographers (No. 1)<sup>31</sup>, the notes from the lectures on Old and Middle Bulgarian phonetics from 1898 and 1899 (No. 4), letters and materials on the donation for a fund to the Bulgarian

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26 See: Е. Михайлова, *Стефан Младенов...*

27 Л. Крумова-Цветкова, *Очерк за Стефан Младенов*, София 1989.

28 Л. Крумова-Цветкова, Е. Джунова, *Академик Стефан Младенов. Човекът, преподавателят, ученият*, София 2013.

29 Ц. Антова, А. Леви, *Фонд № 154К. Стефан Младенов*, Опис I. София 1966.

30 Ц. Антова, А. Леви. *Архивният фонд на С. Младенов*, "Известия на Научния Рахив" 1968, Т. 4, pp. 143–158. See the site of the SA–BAS – [online] [http://archiv.cl.bas.bg/Participants/F.154k\\_Mladenov\\_Stefan.htm](http://archiv.cl.bas.bg/Participants/F.154k_Mladenov_Stefan.htm) [accessed 30.07.2023].

31 The number of the archival unit is indicated in parentheses.

Academy of Sciences (No. 15). The undated group photographs of S. Mladenov with Bulgarian intellectuals (No. 28) and from the university courses in Skopje in May 1918 (No. 29), from the Congress of Slavists in Prague in 1929 (No. 36), are also of interest, as well as the photographs from the international exhibition in Liège in 1905 (No. 47), the postcards with views of the European cities visited by him (No. 48).

II. Academic activity (55 archival units). These are documents related to: his teaching activity at Sofia University and the Military School; his dean's position in the Faculty of History and Philology; his membership in the editorial committee of the "Annals of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of History and Philology; his tenure as the head of the Institute for Bulgarian Language department at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and as a member of various commissions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In this part of the archive, special mention deserves the official documents related to his tenure as a dean, such as reviews of university professors, the statutes of the association of professors, the report on the state and tasks of the Bulgarian historical science.

The students' theses and other works, which were defended at that time in the faculty and which have been kept in the archive of S. Mladenov, were dedicated to the development of the Bulgarian language and its place in the Indo-European language family. They were written in different European languages and are valuable cultural-historical sources for the Bulgarian dialects, phonetics, grammar and etymology (for example No. 58, 62, 63, 69, 75, 76, 77), etc. Some of these works are in fact the first steps of other prominent Bulgarian scholars who had contributed to the Bulgarian-Polish scientific relations. Such an example is the thesis of Kuyo Kuev<sup>32</sup>, dedicated to the dialect spoken in his birthplace (No. 66)<sup>33</sup>, a part of which was published in the journal whose editor was S. Mladenov<sup>34</sup>. The materials include the proofs of Kiril Mirchev's<sup>35</sup> work

32 K. Kuev (1909–1991) was a Bulgarian literary historian, medievalist, specialist in the history of the Slavic literary relations and Polish-Bulgarian literary relations. He was a professor of Bulgarian language at the Jagiellonian University (1937–1939) and a cultural attaché in Poland (1948–1951). He is the author of "Развитие на Адам Мицкевичевите възгледи след 1830 г." (1956), "Развитие на Адам Мицкевичевите възгледи след 1830 г." (1957), "Идейно-творческото развитие на Ванда Вашилевска" (1955), "Юлиус Словацки в България" (1958). He translated into Bulgarian *Przygoda Stasia* (1947) by Boleslav Prus, *Quo vadis* (1971) by Henryk Sienkiewicz. He is the co-author of the "Полско-български речник" (1961). For detail, see: И. Илиев, *Куйо Марков Кувев*, Sesdiva, [online] <https://sesdiva.eu/virtualni-stai/pisateli-i-ucheni-xix-xx-vek/item/78-kujo-markov-kuev> [accessed 24.03.2023].

33 K. Kuev, *Govorāt na s. Ostrec, Trojansko, thesis*, manuscript, notebook, 103 p., dated 1935.

34 See: К. Кувев, *Народни думи по говора на с. Острец, Троянско*, "Родна Реч" 1933, Vol. 1, pp. 70–71; 1934, Vol. 1, pp. 30–32.

35 K. Mirchev (1902–1975) was one of the most prominent scholars of the Old Bulgarian language and the history of the Bulgarian language. After graduation, he was on a one-year specialization (1926–1927) in the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.



on the Neurokop speech, published in 1936 in the “Annals of Sofia University” (No. 85)<sup>36</sup>, the manuscript of Petar Mihaylov Noikov’s<sup>37</sup> work on the education in the Middle Ages from Paisii to the 19<sup>th</sup> century – 255 leaves, dated in 1917, published posthumously in 1925 and 1926 also in the “Annals of Sofia University” (No. 87)<sup>38</sup>. We should also mention the Polish grammar and Polish anthology introduced in 1917 and prepared by Boyan Penev<sup>39</sup>, which were published after his death in 1934 and were edited by S. Mladenov (No. 86)<sup>40</sup>.

Special attention should be paid to the materials related to Mladenov’s activity as a member of the Spelling Commission at the Ministry of Public Education during Stoyan Omarchevski’s ministry (1920–1923) and afterwards. The documents preserved are from the period 1921–1937, when there was effort to simplify the Bulgarian orthographic system (No. 98). There are also materials of the Commission for the Dictionary of the Literary all-Bulgarian Language (No. 99), as well as the Commission for the Publication of “Bălgarski Tălkoven Rečnik” from the period 1931–1949 (No. 100).

III. Scientific legacy (189 archival units). This section includes scholarly works, reviews of other works, bibliographic contributions, reports and articles on cultural and historical topics, different types of notes, proofs. The prototypes of some of S. Mladenov’s most important scholarly works are kept here – these are the already mentioned *Geschichte der bulgarischen Sprache* (No. 128, 129), the manuscript and proofreading of *Uvod v obshtoto ezikoznanie* (No. 121, 122), the manuscript and typescript of *Sravnitelno indoevropsko ezikoznanie* (No. 150), the manuscript of *Gramatika na balgarskija ezik* (No. 155–162), the manuscript and proofs of *Etimologicheski i pravopisen rečnik na balgarskija knizhoven ezik* (No. 164). The section also keeps the proofs of his review article on three Slavic grammars published by the Institute of Slavic Studies in Paris, with authors of the grammars in Polish – A. Meillet and Helena

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36 К. Мирчев, *Неврокопският говор*, “Годишник на Софийския Университет, Историко-филологически Факултет” 1936, Vol. 32, No. 1, 134 p.

37 P. Noikov (1868–1921) was a teacher at the First Boys’ High School in Sofia in 1899–1900. In 1900, he became an associate professor at Sofia University, and in 1905 he was elected the first Bulgarian professor of the history of the Bulgarian education.

38 П. Нойков, *Преглед върху развитието на българското образование до Паусий*, “Годишник на Софийския Университет, Историко-филологически Факултет” 1925, Vol. 21, No. 1, 60 p.; П. Нойков, *Преглед върху развитието на българското образование до Паусий*, “Годишник на Софийския Университет, Историко-филологически Факултет” 1926, Vol. 21, No. 5, 96 p.

39 B. Penev (1882–1927) was a Bulgarian literary historian, critic and great erudite. In connection with his literary studies between 1912 and 1914 he traveled between Munich, Berlin, Krakow, Warsaw and Prague. He was among the founders of the *Polsko-bălgarskoto družestvo* in Sofia in 1918 and was a contributor to the journal “Полско-български Преглед” (1919–1935). He was also the Bulgarian representative who delivered a speech in Polish at the funeral of H. Sienkiewicz. B. Penev had actively supported the Bulgarian-Polish relations until his death.

40 Б. Пенев, *Полска граматика*, София 1934.

de Willman-Grabowska, in Serbo-Croatian – Meillet and André Vaillant, and in Czech – André Mazon (No. 219)<sup>41</sup>. The *Istorija na balgarite* by K. Jireček is also of interest to scholars as it bears the proofs and additions by the author himself, which are systemized by Stoyan Argirov, based on his handwritten notes, translated and prepared for publication. It is a posthumous edition under the editorship of S. Mladenov in 1939 (No. 242, 243)<sup>42</sup>.

It should be emphasized that this part of S. Mladenov's archive is of particular value, even though a large part of the works were published during his lifetime. For the scholars of today, his working process is important, the principles of collection and processing of the materials he needed, as well as the directions in which he worked through the data and materials.

IV. Correspondence (974 archival units). Letters from and to scholars, correspondence between family members and with third parties are described here. This is the most voluminous and valuable part of the scholar's archive from today's point of view, which is understandable in view of his widely popular scientific activity outside his teaching, administrative and scientific commitments. These are letters from various publishing houses, societies, clubs, ministries, etc. The correspondence involves scholars, members of the public and of a private nature spanning 29 European and non-European countries – Bulgaria, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Denmark, Israel, Italy, Canada, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Hungary, Finland, France, USA.

A large part of it involves Bulgarian scientists and public figures and is valuable from a cultural and historical perspective. These are prominent scholars such as A. Teodorov-Balan, Aleksander Balabanov, B. Tsonev, Bonyo Angelov, B. Penev<sup>43</sup>, Hristo Vakarelski, Ivan Galabov, Ivan Shishmanov, Yordan Ivanov, Kiril Hristov<sup>44</sup>, K. Kuev, Lyubomir Andrejchin, Mihail Arnaudov, Otton Barbar, Petar Mutafchiev, Stoyko Stoykov, S. Argirov, Stoyan Romanski, Stoyu

41 С. Младенов, *Три славянски граматика*, “Списание на Българската Академия на Науките: Клон Историко-филологичен и Философско-обществен” 1925, Vol. 30, pp. 113–159.

42 Immediately after the death of K. Jireček, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences purchased that part of his archive, which is related to Bulgaria. These materials contain numerous notes that he made in later years for the edition of *Istorija na balgarite* – notes from the sources and literature, corrections of errors, thoughts and ideas. With precision and accuracy, these notes have been processed and arranged to allow us, by comparison with the main text of the *Istorija na balgarite*, to trace the author's corrections (П. Петров, *Иречековата “История на българите”* [in:] К. Иречек, *История на българите* with corrections and additions by the same author, ed. P. Petrov, Sofia 1979, p. 18).

43 The archive preserves part of the correspondence between the two scholars during B. Penev's visit to Poland in 1923 and 1924, a not yet well-studied episode of his biography (No. 744).

44 Regarding K. Hristov's stay in Leipzig (Germany) and Prague (Czech Republic), exchanged in the period 1927–1932 (No. 915), as well as a correspondence with his wife regarding her late hus-

Shishkov, Veselin Beshevliev, Vladimir Vasilev, V. Georgiev, Zhivko Bojadzhiev. Another part of the correspondence involves a huge circle of European scientists and scholars and are related to different types of consultations, book exchange, reviews.

S. Mladenov had corresponded with scholars such as: Ante Dukić (No. 502), V. Jagić (on an article offered for publication in the “Archiv für Slavische Philologie”; No. 303)<sup>45</sup>, Erich Berneker (No. 353), Václav Vondrák (No. 413), Nicolaas van Wijk (with gratitude for the Bulgarian books he received; No. 401), Roger Bernard (No. 352), Tammo Jacob Bezemer (No. 356), Adalbert Bezzenberger (No. 357), Miloš Weingart (on a review of his book; No. 390), Afanasij Selishchev (on research on the language, ethnography and history of Macedonia and Slavic-Albanian linguistic connections; No. 815), Samuil Bernstein (on a newly discovered document about Georgi Rakovski in the Odessa Historical Archive; No. 354), Léon Beaulieux (on the collaboration of S. Mladenov with the “Revue des Études Slaves” and their co-authored Bulgarian grammar; No. 370)<sup>46</sup>, A. Mazon (on a Bulgarian scientific literature about the University of Strasbourg and preparation of co-authored publications; No. 641), A. Meillet (on the exchange of articles, and on various phonetic and etymological issues; No. 661), Max Vasmer (an extensive correspondence from May 15, 1921 to February 1, 1949; No. 889), V. Jagić (on their collaboration in “Archiv für Slavische Philologie”; No. 971). The importance of this part of the archive is indicated by the fact that it contains materials that were previously unknown for the scientific community, such as, for example, the letter sent by the municipal councilor Ferdinand Ginzler on June 1, 1938, Vienna (No. 441). The letter attests for a five-volume linguistic work devoted to the Bulgarian syntax, which consisted of 1,600 large-format handwritten sheets and covered over 10,000 linguistic examples. The work was titled *Gradivo za sintaktisa na balgarskija ezik*, and was written in 1935; in 1936, it was deposited in the private library of Tsar Boris III (and remains unknown as of today)<sup>47</sup>.

A section of the correspondence involves Polish scholars. These are various types of materials, involving correspondence with: Michał Asanka-Japołł (in connection with his works on Polish literature; No. 328), Józef Gołąbek (with thanks for the review by S. Mladenov, for articles and talks related

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band's archive, exchanged in the period between September 3, 1950 and January 6, 1956 (No. 921).

45 See also: M. Младенов, *Писма на Ватрослав Јагич до Стефан Младенов*, “Съпоставително Езикознание” 1988, Vol. 6, pp. 42–45.

46 *Grammaire de la langue bulgare Avec le concours de S. Mladenov* (Collection de grammaires de l'Institut d'Études slaves. – IV) Librairie Ancienne Honoré Champion, Paris 1933.

47 See: И. Трифонова, *Из историята на българското езикознание*, “Наука” 2015, Vol. 25, No. 6, pp. 42–45.

to Bulgaria; No. 444), Jan Safarewicz (with explanations and recommendations on some issues for the newly published volume *Uvod v slavjanskoto ezikoznanie*; No. 521), Henryk Batowski (on articles for editing; No. 348), Józef Chodonowski from the Polish-Bulgarian Society in Sofia (No. 912), Edward Klich (on contacts with relatives and friends during the war; No. 592), Tadeusz Kowalski (on his work on Turkish dialects and bibliography on them; No. 593), Tadeusz Lehr-Splawiński (on providing a Bulgarian bibliography for the “Rocznik Slawistyczny” and exchange of articles; No. 633), Mieczysław Małecki (on a number of articles and a request for books for the South Slavic Seminar at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków; No. 647), Kazimierz Nitsch (on various linguistic issues; No. 715), Leszek Ossowski (who had sent him the newly published book of Prof. Kowalski and thanked for the works received; No. 724), Jan Rozwadowski (about the cooperation with “Rocznik Slawistyczny”; No. 801), Stanisław Słoński (about language notes and an invitation for a cooperation with the journal “Prace Filologiczne”; No. 830), Witold Taszycki (on newly published works of S. Mladenov and information about the activity of the Slavic Seminar at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków; No. 858), Boleslaw Turek (on his visit to Bulgaria and his new book; No. 884), Stanisław Szober (on their collaboration in the journal “Prace Filologiczne” and other scientific matters; No. 958), J. Baudouin de Courtenay (on exchange of books and letters of greeting; No. 366)<sup>48</sup>. The archive also contains part of S. Mladenov’s correspondence with the Polish-Bulgarian Society in Sofia, as well as a brochure for a poll on the so-called *Polish question* (No. 1018).

V. Materials of other people (63 archival units). The documents of S. Mladenov include materials that are not his. They are mainly related to his editorial and teaching activities, and most of them are part of the manuscript legacy of B. Tsonev (S. Mladenov was his student and follower). These materials mainly deal with the history of the Bulgarian language, inventories of Slavic manuscripts and other notes that S. Mladenov had edited and published after the death of B. Tsonev (from No. 1290–1318, No. 1330–1332)<sup>49</sup>. An indication of his responsibility was the correspondence he had conducted with B. Tsonev’s wife after his death in 1926 – in the period between June 2, 1927 and January 29, 1940 (No. 935). Letters by B. Tsonev are also part of the archive (No. 1264, 1267). The manuscript titled *Nauchnoto rakopisno*

48 This archive unit also keeps a letter from the wife of J. Baudouin de Courtenay to S. Mladenov thanking him for the condolences expressed on Baudouin de Courtenay’s death.

49 During his lifetime, B. Tsonev published the first volume of his monograph *История на българския език*. Vol. 1: *Обща част*, Sofia 1919. S. Mladenov completed the work of his teacher and in 1934 and 1937 the remaining two volumes of the most voluminous and representative at that time work on the history of the Bulgarian language were published.

*nasledstvo na Prof. B. Conev*, undated, six leaves (No. 264), and a manuscript by A. Teodorov-Balan, also with no indication of place and date – *Izlozhenija ot sastavitelite vav vrazka s izdavaneto na Balgarski talkoven rechnik*, 11 sheets (No. 276) (which will be discussed further below), are also of interest.

This section of the archive keeps the documents from the scientific expedition in Macedonia and in Morava Valley, which are still deemed of cultural and historical value as primary sources. In addition to the reports and studies by S. Mladenov and by B. Tsonev (No. 1326), there are also transcripts from the reports of M. Arnaudov (No. 1269), the study on the Muslim population in Macedonia by Dimitar Gadzhanov (No. 1274), the report of Vassil Zlatarski (No. 1277), of Y. Ivanov (No. 1278), of Ivan Karoserov (No. 1280), of L. Miletich (No. 1916)<sup>50</sup>.

Later, a name index (surname, first name and the number of the archival unit) and a geographical index (city, state, number of the archival unit) were added to Inventory 1, which may help researchers in the future.

### Fund No. 154 K, Inventory 2

The Inventory 2 with Fund No. 154 K is from a later period, with no indication of the date and year of its compilation on the cover. It contains only one sheet with description of 15 archival units and was certified by Prof. Dora Ivanova-Mircheva who was the director of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in the period 1979–1989. These are unpublished parts of the Bulgarian explanatory dictionary (published during his lifetime)<sup>51</sup>. Drafts for the letters N, O, P, R, S are also part of this section, with no indication of date and year. The publishing of the dictionary began in the form of notebooks in 1927. After the death of B. Tsonev in 1926 and the retirement of S. Argirov after the sixth notebook (A – *doposjavam*), S. Mladenov and A. Teodorov-Balan took over the job. From the seventh notebook onwards, S. Mladenov remained the only author of this large-scale work which was of great importance for the Bulgarian historical science. After the dictionary of the Bulgarian language by Nayden Gerov<sup>52</sup> and the dictionary with materials from Modern Bulgarian printed books by Aleksandr Djuvernua<sup>53</sup>, the dictionary of S. Mladenov marked a new stage of the Bulgarian lexicography. It included

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50 Cf. the reports from this expedition “*Научна експедиция в Македония и Поморавието, 1916 г.*”, comp. P. Petrov, Sofia 1993.

51 С. Младенов, А. Теодоров-Балан, *Български тълковен речник (с оглед към народните говори)*. Т. 1: А–К, София 1951.

52 Н. Геров, *Речник на българския език*. Т. 1–5, Пловдив 1895–1904.

53 А. Дювернуа, *Словарь болгарского языка по памятникам народной словесности и произведениям новейшей печати*, Москва 1886–1889.

both literary and dialect lexica from the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and provided rich material for studying the Bulgarian vocabulary of the period. Diana Blagoeva's latest articles, published in 2020, 2021 and 2022, attest to its relevance from today's perspective<sup>54</sup>.

### Undescribed documents of Stefan Mladenov in the SA–BAS

As of today, SA–BAS keeps still undescribed documents from the handwritten legacy of Mladenov. I had the opportunity to work with them *de visu* a few years ago, for which I express my heartfelt gratitude to the colleagues at the SA–BAS. These materials were introduced into the archive after the death of the only son of S. Mladenov – Dobrin; their overall condition was bad, and at the moment they were stored in three boxes for special materials.

These are different kinds of letters, postcards, receipts, invitations related to the daily life of the Mladenov family, and the majority of them are part of the personal family correspondence and archive of his wife Rayna Mladenova (née Kochanova). Among them, however, is the *Congratulatory address* on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scholar, signed by V. Georgiev, who at that time was rector of Sofia University, dated December 27, 1955 (2 p., hardcover), with gratitude expressed and a list of Mladenov's merits and contributions to the Bulgarian society. This section of the archive also contains an invitation from the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin, (2 p., German), signed by Walter Friedrich, for participation in the celebratory opening of the Institut für Griechisch-Römische Altertumskunde (to keep the studies in the field) to be held from 24 to 26 October 1955.

Another valuable document is the letter by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (No. 30–86, 1 s.), addressed to Rayna and Dobrin Mladenovi, signed by Acad. Lyubomir Krastanov, dated July 25, 1963, in which the president and the administration of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences expressed their gratitude to the heirs of S. Mladenov for the patriotic gesture of their relative,

54 Д. Благоева, *Начини на семантизация на лексиката в непубликувания втори том "Български тълковен речник" от Стефан Младенов*, [in:] *Българският език – исторически и съвременни аспекти...*, pp. 89–103; eadem, *За словника на неиздадения втори том "Български тълковен речник" от Стефан Младенов*, [in:] *Języki słowiańskie dziś: w kręgu kategorii, struktur i procesów*, ed. A. Kiklewicz, J. Mazurkiewicz-Sułkowska, J. Banasiak, Warszawa–Łódź 2021, pp. 63–78; eadem, *Особеностите на лексикографската концепция на "Български тълковен речник" от Стефан Младенов*, "Сълм: e-spisanie v oblasti na humanitaristikata X–XXI v." 2022, Vol. 10, No. 23, [online] [https://www.abcdar.com/magazine/XXIII/Dzl\\_2022\\_br23\\_14a\\_Diana\\_Blagoeva\\_Bg\\_tulkoven\\_rechnik\\_Stefan\\_Mladenov.pdf](https://www.abcdar.com/magazine/XXIII/Dzl_2022_br23_14a_Diana_Blagoeva_Bg_tulkoven_rechnik_Stefan_Mladenov.pdf) [accessed 25.03.2023]; see also: Р. Русинов, *Из историята на "Български тълковен речник" с оглед към народните говори" (1927–1951) от Стефан Младенов с донегдешното участие на А. Т. Балан*, "Списание на Българската Академия на Науките" 1990, Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 23–34.

who, with his verbal will during his lifetime, which they had subsequently followed, had donated his archive and personal library to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to serve the scientists and intellectuals in the future.

### Summary

This brief overview of the life and work of S. Mladenov aims, on the one hand, to present the Bulgarian studies, related to the memory of the scholar, and on the other – to indicate the still unexplored fields in his archival legacy with valuable cultural and historical information. The archival legacy associated with S. Mladenov is of value to the present day with respect to the history of the Bulgarian, Indo-European and general linguistics, as well as in terms of medieval studies in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It remains, however, still an undervalued source for the history and work of the Bulgarian scientific and educational institutions at the time, which may answer many of the controversial issues emerging in the discussions on, for example, the changes in the Bulgarian spelling<sup>55</sup>. S. Mladenov's scientific and public contacts in a number of European countries such as Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, etc., deserve special attention. The correspondence of the scholar preserved at the SA-BAS has not been the subject of a systematic study until now. In order to illustrate this, the present study put an emphasis on the Bulgarian-Polish cultural-scientific relations at that time, which shows how valuable a source it may be in a subsequent systematic study.

The archival legacy of S. Mladenov contributes to a better understanding of the dynamics of the cultural, historical and political processes in post-liberation Bulgaria, during the First and the Second World Wars and the transition between capitalism and communism – seen through the prism of the European cultural institutions. Known for his position on territorial and historical boundaries of the Bulgarian language, with his utmost erudition and high scientific and civic morality, Mladenov's documentary legacy may open the path to reconsidering the idea of the objectivity of the intellectual production. It is also a way to develop modern scientific and educational policy in building an informed society with an up-to-date view of international scientific, political and cultural processes.

Translated by Tsvetana Dimitrova

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<sup>55</sup> The so-called “Omarchevski spelling” – after the already mentioned minister of the Public Education – S. Omarchevski.

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