

## TEN YEARS OF THE JOURNAL 'PALAEOBULGARICA'

*The journal 'Palaeobulgarica' — theoretical organ of the Centre for Bulgarian Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Committee for Culture — has entered its tenth year of existence. It was set up in 1977 as a result of the growing need of a specialized periodical which would incorporate and present the various results of the research work of scholars from all over the world in the fields of Cyril and Methodius Studies, the Old Bulgarian language, literature, art and culture, and the history of the Bulgarian people throughout the Middle Ages. It was the 'Palaeobulgarica' which undertook the important task of establishing itself as the international organ of all Old Bulgarian and Palaeoslav scholars and of becoming the forum for their research. And now, ten years after its foundation, we have every reason to declare that the journal has achieved its purpose to a considerable degree.*

*'Palaeobulgarica' has from the very beginning been entrusted to a prestigious international board of editors. Its first Editor in Chief at whose initiative and under whose immediate guidance the magazine shaped itself up was Academician Emil Georgiev, Slavic and Old Bulgarian literary scholar of international renown. The editorial board of 'Palaeobulgarica' consists not only of Bulgarian experts but also of scholars from abroad, such as Academician Dmitrii Sergyeevich Likhachov (USSR) — literary scholar, expert in the fields of Old Bulgarian and Old Russian literature, Head of the Old Russian Literature Section of the Leningrad Institute for Russian Literature at the Soviet Academy of Sciences; Academician Franciszek Slawski (Poland) — linguist, Slavic and Old Bulgarian scholar, Head of the Polish Language Department at the Institute for Slavic Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences; Prof. Dr. Roger Bernard (France) — Slavic scholar, linguist and literary scholar who has been for many years Head of the Bulgarian Language Department of the Institute for Eastern Languages in Paris.*

*'Palaeobulgarica' is a quarterly publication. Originally, each copy consisted of six quires which were increased to eight in 1980. With the purpose of reaching the greatest possible number of Slavic scholars in different countries the journal publishes articles in five languages: Bulgarian, Russian, German, French and English. It has two main sections: "Articles" and "Reviews".*

*Published under the "Articles" heading are articles of theoretical importance as well as articles treating specific problems; announcements and analyses of newly discovered written records; papers in the fields of Mediaeval Slavic Studies and Bulgarian art and culture, on a predominantly comparative basis.*

*As early as the end of the 19th century such famous scholars as Vatroslav Jagich and August Leskin provided convincing evidence that the language of Cyril and Methodius, which is essentially Old Bulgarian, forms the basis of Slavic Studies. Linguists dealing with Slavic and Indoeuropean languages can reconstruct the development of the Slavic languages only with the help of Old Bulgarian,*

since it provides the key to those peculiarities of the Slavic languages, which have not been recorded in written documents. Old Bulgarian is also essential to the study of Old Bulgarian literature and culture in general. Its written records are an important source of information about life in Mediaeval Bulgaria. It is for those reasons that problems concerning Old Bulgarian are among the most frequent topics appearing on the pages of the journal.

The study of Old Bulgarian literature and culture is also of great importance. Before the Cyrillic alphabet was introduced, on which basis Old Bulgarian literature developed, literature and culture existed in Europe in Greek and Latin. The newly created literature written in the Cyrillic script covered a wide area of the Eastern parts of Europe. It was from it that the national literatures and cultures of the different Slavic peoples developed. The influence of Old Bulgarian literature and culture was very strong and covered both a long period of time and a wide geographic perimeter. It is for this very reason that this influence is in the centre of a large number of articles published in 'Palaeobulgarica'.

The history of Bulgaria goes a long way back in time. The Bulgarian State was one of the first to be founded after the decline of the Ancient World. Recently we celebrated its 13th centenary. Bulgaria's life during those 13 centuries was a chequered one, with periods of glory and such of dire subjugation. Its geographic position (Bulgaria was on the crossroad between two continents: Europe and Asia) was one of the reasons for its being often in the centre of important historical events and for its involvement in the development of international relations. Bulgaria was the source of rich cultural streams flowing in the direction of other nations, as well as of different social movements which began here and spread throughout the world during the Middle Ages.

Closely connected to this area of problems is the question of Bulgaria's ties with other nations, especially with the other Slavic nations, during the Middle Ages. Those ties were strong and fruitful. They were undoubtedly an important factor in the development of all Slavic nations. Therefore they are of considerable interest to scholars.

The "Reviews" section of the journal contains reviews of new books in the fields of Old Bulgarian and Palaeoslavonic studies published in Bulgaria or abroad. It covers almost the whole body of scientific output in this area in Bulgaria. More and more books by Bulgarian authors are reviewed by foreign scholars working in the same field. This is perhaps a good indication of the popularity and prestige that Bulgarian scientific publications have abroad, as well as of the high degree of objectivity of their evaluation in the light of world standards of achievement. The intention of the editorial board is to include review of works published abroad.

The section also carries on a regular basis reports of the more important international events (such as congresses, conferences, symposia, colloquia, sessions and seminars) connected to a greater or lesser degree with the magazine's area of interest. In the same section one may also find information about the life and work of prominent Slavic and Bulgarian scholars of the past or the present, written on the occasion of their anniversaries.

In the past decade 'Palaeobulgarica' has consistently made efforts to achieve the tasks set to it at the time of its foundation, the tasks of raising the scientific criteria in selecting the material for publication; achieving greater variety, and improving its print, lay-out, etc. It has developed as a theoretical organ of the best traditions and has gained high scientific and ideological prestige. It is impossible to mention the names of all those who have contributed to the journal but it should be noted that among them are the most prominent and highly esteemed

Slavic and Old Bulgarian scholars. However, it might be worth quoting some figures which would illustrate the journal's achievements up to this point.

The number of signed publications is 459. Of those 313 have appeared in the "Articles" section and 146 in the "Reviews" section. One third (i.e. 156) of all publications were contributed by foreign scholars. One should observe that not only authors from the Slavic countries where the existing interest in Old Bulgarian is quite understandable, have written for the journal. Authors from more than 20 countries have contributed to it; among them are USSR, Hungary, Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, GDR, Yougoslavia, West Germany, USA, Holland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Canada, etc. This proves convincingly enough not only the important place the study of Old Bulgarian holds in the cultural life of the world but also the need of a journal like 'Palaeobulgarica', and its evergrowing international prestige.

Bulgarian studies in this country have undergone considerable development in the last few years. Many of the discoveries and studies in that area became important events in the cultural life of our country and contributed greatly to the overall activities of disseminating, popularizing, and winning international recognition for the ancient traditions of our people. The celebration of such notable anniversaries as the 13th centenary of the death of Methodius were accompanied by a great number of conferences, symposia and others, both in Bulgaria and abroad — something which was duly reflected by the journal 'Palaeobulgarica'.

Many books have been published, such as: 'Chetveroevangelieto na Ivan Aleksandar', 'Dobromirovo Evangelie', 'Asemanievo Evangelie', 'Banishko Evangelie', 'Ivan Aleksandroviyat Sbornik of 1348', 'Suprasulski Sbornik', 'Ten Centuries since the First Bulgarian Literary Manuscripts', the 'Old Bulgarian Literature' series, the 'Cyril and Methodius Encyclopaedia', etc, each of which may be viewed as an important cultural fact. Those books prove the existence of an ancient culture in Bulgaria, and are a reflection of the achievements of contemporary scientific and socio-political thought in Bulgaria. 'Palaeobulgarica' has published reviews of, and reports on those books, which gives us every reason to conclude that it has found its place in the propagation of the achievements of our national culture, and of linking it up with the general cultural process of the world.

In the last few years 'Palaeobulgarica' has established itself as a publication whose pages are the meeting-ground of Old Bulgarian scholarship, both from this country and from abroad.

Everything said so far gives us reason to believe that the journal will develop further by expanding the perimeter of research papers published in it, by increasing the number of authors represented in it, and by improving the quality of the material published in it; and that it will serve as a source of information for the achievements of Old Bulgarian Studies. The achievements of 'Palaeobulgarica' so far give us reasons to be optimistic about its future.