



**Book Review**

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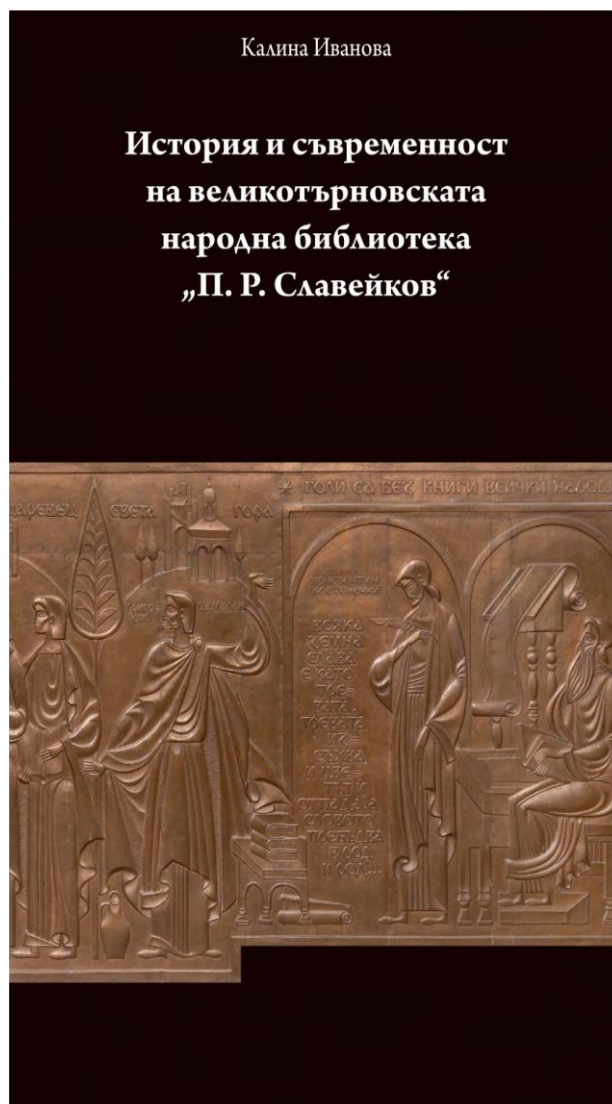
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***History and Modernity of Public Library “Petko R. Slaveykov” Veliko Tarnovo***  
***by Kalina Ivanova***  
***Veliko Tarnovo, 2014***  
***320 pages***  
***ISBN 9786197173017***

The publication is dedicated to the Public Library of Veliko Tarnovo since 1889 to its current development. Historical facts and documents for the period of its existence as a public reading room resort are very episodic, so the task to discover important facts from the operation of the library during this period appears to be very difficult. Unfortunately, all records of the City Municipality, established in 1858, were destroyed during a fire on December 18, 1906 in the Town Hall and we can only assume that there was stored important information related to the existence of the first public library in Veliko Tarnovo. The historical study of the activities of the Public Library tracks the entire historical path of the library until today. The five sections and subsections of the study analyzed the discovered documents and revealed the activities of the library as a third deposit repository. There is an analysis of the conditions and circumstances under which it carries out its work and the reasons for the inadequate functioning in certain phases of its activity.

In the first part: "Development of public libraries in Veliko Tarnovo from the Liberation until the end of the First World War (1918)" are considered the prerequisites for the creation and development of the first public libraries in Veliko Tarnovo, preceding the appearance of Public Library in 1922.

After the Liberation Veliko Tarnovo region builds a well-developed library structure initially composed by school libraries, and later by many district community center libraries. During this period, there are other types of libraries - public, which have the financial support of the municipality. Of utmost importance is the Russian reading room for periodicals and later, the appearance on this base of the National Library.



The second part deals with the establishment of the library in the time between the First and Second World War (1919-1944). There is a detailed presentation of the idea and the motives for the creation of a new National Library in Veliko Tarnovo, which has the functions of third national depository of Bulgarian literature. The study on the activity of the library provides information about prominent public figures that have played an important role in its historical development, its directors and their specific contributions, as well as some library workers that left a bright trace in the chronicles of the library.

Part III "Public Library 'P. Slaveykov' by mid-forties of XX century to the end of 1989" examines the development of the library in a new political order when performed centralized governance of education and culture and activities of the library is ideologically linked to the new political system.

In the publications about the library there is too little information about its directors after 1944. When carrying out the survey it was necessary to gather additional information from their friends and relatives who have made it possible to assess their contribution to its development.

In subsections of Part IV "Development and activities of Veliko Tarnovo library in conditions of democracy 1989-2013" is discussed the current state and prospects for development of the library. It is made a detailed analysis of the main activities and areas through which it acquires contemporary image of modern library and information, cultural and educational center.

The activity of the library of the late XX century and early twenty-first century is presented in more detail in the subsection about its active international partnership and the implemented project activities.

In the fifth part is designed a "Concept for the development of the National Library 'Petko R. Slaveykov' after the year of 2010" for a period of 10 years in response to the challenges that public libraries face to be developed and modified in accordance with changes in the economical, social and technological development and to occupy an increasingly important role in today's information society.

For the writing of this study numerous archival documents and pictures were examined, stored in NA "Archives", National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Central Library of BAS. Were studied the personal archives of prominent specialists in local history and researchers in the educational and community center work as Jordan Kuleliev, Ivan P. Zachariev, Kiro Tuleshkov and others, stored in the "State Archives" - Veliko Tarnovo.

Unpublished documents from the archives of the National Regional library "P. R. Slaveykov" - Veliko Tarnovo were used, coming into scientific circulation for the first time.

The information about the used sources of information is reported at the end of the study devoted to the history and current state of one of the largest public libraries in the country.

I express my gratitude to all colleagues from the Public Library "Petko R. Slaveykov" and specifically to my colleagues from the department "Reference and bibliographic and Local History", who worked hard and selflessly to fill diaries and personal indexes in different periods of the historical development of library, thereby contributing to this monograph history of the library and its contemporary development path today to be finalized.