

Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, Maya Vlahova-Angelova, Nadezhda Dancheva (eds.), *Слъдовати достойтъ. Proceedings of the International Onomastic Conference “Anthroponyms and Anthroponymic Researches in the Beginning of 21st Century”, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of prof. Yordan Zaimov, Dr. Sc. (1921–1987), 20–22 April 2021, Sofia, Sofia: Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2021, 358 pp., ISBN: 978619245117-2 (online)*

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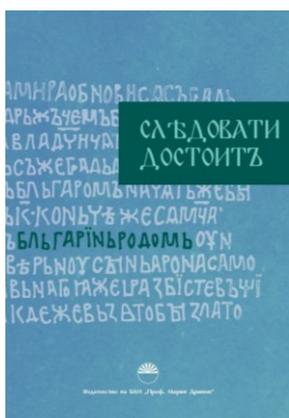
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Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, Maya Vlahova-Angelova, Nadezhda Dancheva (eds.), *Слѣдовати доистинѣ. Proceedings of the International Onomastic Conference “Anthroponyms and Anthroponymic Researches in the Beginning of 21st Century”, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of prof. Yordan Zaimov, Dr. Sc. (1921–1987), 20–22 April 2021, Sofia, Sofia: Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2021, 358 pp., ISBN: 978619245117-2 (online)*¹

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(<https://ibl.bas.bg/en/onomas-tichna-konferentsiya-na-tema-vantroponimi-i-anthroponimni-izsledvaniya-v-natchaloto-na-xxi-vekv/>)

At the end of April, from the 20th to 22nd, a specialized conference in anthroponymy, *Anthroponyms and Anthroponymic Researches in the Beginning of 21st Century*, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of the prominent Bulgarian onomastician prof. Yordan Zaimov, Dr. Sc., took place in Sofia, Bulgaria. The scientific event was organized by the colleagues from the Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin”, the Onomastic Section of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as a part of the project *Personal Names in Bulgaria in the Beginning of 21st Century*, with the support of the National Science Fund of the Republic of Bulgaria, Grant No КП-06-Н-40/10, 10.12.2019.

All the papers presented were strictly selected by the organizers, and after a double-blind peer review, they were published in *Слѣдовати доистинѣ. Proceedings of the International Onomastic Conference “Anthroponyms and Anthroponymic Researches in the Beginning of 21st Century”, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of prof. Yordan Zaimov, Dr. Sc. (1921–1987), 20–22 April 2021, Sofia* (Sofia: Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2021), a book edited by Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, Maya Vlahova-Angelova,

¹ The present study is conducted under the project “Personal Names in Bulgaria in the Beginning of 21st Century” with the support of the National Science Fund of the Republic of Bulgaria, Grant No КП-06-Н-40/10, 10 December 2019.

Nadezhda Dancheva, as an open-access publication available for every scholar interested in the topics discussed.

The volume consists of 29 articles divided in six thematic parts according to the types of the researches included. As the editors underline in the Preface, although the conference had such a specific topic, the variety of the papers is impressive – there are synchronic as well as diachronic investigations that observe phenomena from a wide geographical area.

In the first chapter the plenary talks are presented. Prof. Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, in *100 години от рождението на проф. Йордан Заимов – един отдаден на науката родолюбив българин (100th anniversary of the birth of prof. Yordan Zaimov – A Bulgarian patriot dedicated to knowledge)*, follows her mentor's path through life step by step – from his birth, through his education and close meetings and relationships with the most prominent scholars and artists of the time, his work in the field of onomastics in almost all its branches (hydronymy, toponymy, anthroponymy), as well as in etymology and diachronic linguistics. Prof. Zaimov's biographical information was enriched with the article by Prof. Raia Zaimova, *Непознатият Йордан Заимов (The unknown Yordan Zaimov)*, where she recounts less well-known activities of her father as an artist and translator illustrated with works from the family archive.

Prof. habil. Urszula Bijak, in *Polish anthroponym-derived geographical names (An overview)*, focuses on the interesting problem of toponym coinage by means of deanthroponymization. Her observations are on their appearance in Polish oikonymy, hydronymy, and anoikonymy, patterns of formation (“pure (reiteration) and extended (paradigmatic derivation, suffixation, composition)”), features of the anthroponyms used as a basis in the linguistic process which is the object of the present investigation. Their geographical spreading is illustrated. A parallel is made with other researches and examples from some of the Slavic languages.

Prof. habil. Oliviu Felecan, in *Onomastic considerations on news in the recent mass media*, pays attention to some new challenges with which onomasticians all over the world are faced, such as “baptizing a new virus” that rapidly changes our way of living, using anthroponyms as the best advertisement possible, discussing topics accepted by the society as taboos, the strength of the influence exerted by the mass media on the perception of onyms by the common people, etc.

The next chapter, dedicated to “Historical Anthroponymy”, includes diachronic researches, and that is the only feature they have in common.

Victor Shulgach, in *Праславянские nomina agentis с суффиксом *-ar'ь (на материале антропонимии) (Proto-Slavic nomina agentis with suffix *-ar'ь (on the material of anthroponymy))*, follows the semantics hidden in the suffix *-ar'ь and its role in the formation of onyms from a different type in the Slavic languages.

Lora Taseva, in *Прозвища на византийски владетели в български и*

срѣбски средновековни преводи (Nicknames of Byzantine rulers in Medieval Bulgarian and Serbian translations), compares the usage of three epithets of Byzantine emperors (Παύλωντος, Κοπρώνυμος, and Πορφυρογέννητος) in nine translations of Greek texts dating back to 11th–14th centuries to see how they are presented in the translated text (with their genuine Greek form or with an equivalent that represents their literary translation) and what the translators' intention is in choosing them.

Dobriela Kotova, in *Имената на мъжете и жените сред негръцкото население в Одесос, засвидетелствани в надгробните надписи (Names of men and women among the non-Greek population of Odessos documented on tomb inscriptions)*, presents the structure of the name system in the important trade and education center on the Black Sea coast, Odessos. The anthroponymicon reconstruction is based on tomb inscriptions, and the evidence found prompt that it used to be quite heterogenous. It favors discussions about the ethnicity of the settlement inhabitants and the relations which existed between the Greek community and the others.

Aleksandr Shaposhnikov, in *Сравнение именных традиций болгаро-антского и ильменско-словенского диалектных ареалов (Comparison of the nominal traditions of the Bulgarian-Ant and Ilmenian-Slovene dialect areas)*, by using prof. Yordan Zaimov's works, makes a parallel between the Old Novgorod and Old Bulgarian onomasticon.

Ivona Karachorova, in *Още веднъж за Кокалянския поменик (On the Kokalyane beadroll, once again)*, introduces her investigation of the personal names found in the manuscript that is dated back to the 17th century. She focuses her attention on 78 anthroponyms, both masculine and feminine, new in the Bulgarian onomasticon.

Mariyana Tsibranska-Kostova, in *Феминалната антропонимия в бележките на българските книжовници през Средновековието (Female anthroponomy in the marginal notes of Bulgarian scribes in the Middle Ages)*, discusses the usage of feminine personal names in “the two-volume edition of margins of the Bulgarian scribes (10th to 18th century)”. The author concludes that their mentioning being the attribute of common women or ladies who used to play a significant role in the Bulgarian history is only in the context of “family-genus” relationships. Their structural analysis is accompanied by notes connected with their etymology.

Žaneta Dvořáková research object in *Given names of Czech and Moravian Jews in the post-war period* consists of forenames given to the newborn in Jewish families after World War Two in the region of Bohemia and Moravia. The author follows the development of the anthroponymicon of the community starting from the pre-war period up to the very beginning of the new millennium. She commented the various extralinguistic factors affecting the name choice and the changes within the name system.

Georgi Mitrinov, in *Женските лични имена в османските данъчни*

регистри за населението на Неврокопска каза от средата на XVI век (Female personal names in the Ottoman tax registers for the population of casa Nevrokop at the middle of the 16th century), focuses his scientific interests on the feminine anthroponyms found in “an Ottoman tax register from the 16th century” and analyzes them.

Tobias Weber dedicates his research, *Consultant identity in historical language data: Anthroponyms as a tool or as an obstacle?*, on the development of the name system of the Kraasna community, strongly affected by foreign anthroponymicons due to geographical and political factors.

In the chapter entitled “Contemporary Anthroponymy” the reader may find picturesque titles dealing with some interesting phenomena existing in name systems all around the world.

Elena Khamaeva, in *К вопросу о лингвистической сущности китайских антропонимов: фамилия и имя семантически, фонетически и графически взаимосвязаны (Revisiting Chinese anthroponyms: The surname and first name are semantically, phonetically, and graphically related)*, depicts the complex structure of the Chinese name system by describing the specific, deeply semantic link between surname and first name.

Maya Vlahova-Angelova, in *Лични имена, образувани от основата бог-, в историческата и съвременната българска антропонимия (Personal names derived from bog- in historical and contemporary Bulgarian anthroponymy)*, shows her scientific interest in the Bulgarian personal names containing the element *bog-* (literary ‘god’) by examining their place in the Bulgarian onomasticon diachronically (from the oldest text where they were mentioned for the first time until now) as well as synchronically (comparing the official statistical data for the three biggest cities in Bulgaria – Sofia, Varna and Plovdiv – for the time period starting with 2008 and ending with 2018). The extralinguistic factors causing their reduced frequency of appearance are also taken under consideration.

Patryk Borowiak, in *Насоки на славистичните и полонистичните антропономастични изследвания в Университета „Адам Мицкевич“ в Познан в периода 2013–2021 г. (Directions in Slavic and Polish anthroponomic research at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, in the period 2013–2021)*, presents in details his colleagues’ recent work in the field of anthroponymy. He also added a complete list of all the titles, which consists of useful bibliographical data and is very helpful for future research.

Svetlana Nasakina, in *Собственные имена в заголовках газет как компоненты системы религиозной и национальной идентичности украинских болгар (Proper names in newspaper headlines as components of the religious and national identity system of Ukrainian Bulgarians)*, analyses the usage of Bulgarian personal names in the newspaper *Roden kray* (issues from the period 2018–2021), which is the mirror of the Bulgarian community’s life in Ukraine.

Most of the papers in *First Names Fashion in the Global World* are dedicated to the problems of the Bulgarian name system.

Nadezhda Dancheva, in *Наблюдения върху женските лични имена в гр. Варна в началото на 21-ви век (A look at personal female names in the city of Varna at the beginning of the 21st century)*, analyses the name-giving fashion in newborn girls in one of the biggest cities in Bulgaria, Varna, for a 10-year period (2008–2018), while Teodora Hristova, in *Личните имена като знаци на културна идентичност (Personal names as signs of cultural identity)*, investigates the name system of Blagoevgrad by comparing the data available for 2016 and 2017. In both papers the focus is on the forenames most preferred by the parents.

Gergana Petkova, in *За чуждите лични имена с единична употреба, регистрирани в гр. София през 2014 г. (On foreign personal names with single usage in the official data of the city of Sofia (2014))*, develops her scientific interests by analyzing and classifying new names in the Bulgarian onomasticon, anthroponyms with foreign origin with a single token, officially registered in the capital city of the country in 2014. The study proves the increasingly stronger tendency that traditional personal names are less desirable among Bulgarians who are to become parents. Unfortunately, the same name-giving trends are reported in other articles about the development and the current state of the Bulgarian name system.

Katya Issa's research entitled *Социолингвистичен анализ на българската антропонимия у нас и в глобализацията се свят. Опит за социономастика (Sociolinguistic analysis of Bulgarian anthroponymy in Bulgaria and the globalising world: An attempt at socio-onomastics)* goes beyond the borders of the Republic of Bulgaria by presenting the anthroponymicon structure of the representatives of the Bulgarian community in Australia. The need for refreshing and enlarging the explanations in the anthroponymic parts found in the sources of education used by the Bulgarians living abroad is highlighted.

Rada Levkova dedicates her article *За личното име София (On the given Name София)* to the popularity of *Sofiya*, the anthroponym of Greek origin, and its positions in name systems all over the world.

Linda Mëniku, in *Recent trends in personal names in Albania*, presents not only the development and the structure of the Albanian anthroponymicon, but comments on its current state by using official statistical data, while Annika Hussar, in *The first names of Estonians in the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century*, follows the formation of the modern Estonian name system diachronically and highlights problems related to name-giving trends nowadays.

In the part of the proceedings devoted to *Theory of Proper Names*, Boris Parashkevov, in the paper *Семантични и структурни критерии за гнездово представяне на фамилните имена (Semantic and structural criteria for the presentation of surnames in lexicographic nests)*, introduces his project in

progress regarding a dictionary of the Bulgarian surnames, in which he implements a new lexicographic methodology.

Olga Sklyarenko, in *Категории артикля в ономастике: теоретические проблемы* (*Article categories in onomastics: Theoretical problems*), focuses her attention on the very interesting linguistic problem of the role of the article as a grammatical category in Bulgarian when used with a proper name. The analysis is not only about the structure, but also about the different semantic association.

Ekaterina Dikova, in *Реторичният потенциал на антропонима* (*Rhetorical potential of proper names*), discusses the difficulties with which interpreters are faced when translating texts that include specific personal names. That advantage sometimes becomes fairly complicated when translating poetry. The research is based on South Slavonic texts from the 14th century and their original versions in Greek.

In the last chapter, *Anthroponyms in Toponymy* (*Oiconymy, Hydronymy, Hrematonymy*), problems regarding the place of anthroponyms in other onomastic branches are discussed.

Sviatoslav Verbych, in *Ойконимикон давно обитаемых регионов Украины – ценный источник реконструкции автохтонных славянских антропонимов* (*Oikonymicon of Ukraine's long-settled region – An important source for the restoration of specific Slavic anthroponyms*), analyzes the oikonyms derived from an anthroponym in the Ternopil region, which is said to be one of the oldest settlements in Ukraine. The author focuses on their etymology, structure and means of formation.

Irina Yefimenko's text, *Отантропонимные образования в позднем ойконимиконе Украины* (*Derivatives from the anthroponyms of the late oikonymicon of Ukraine*), shares her observations on a similar topic but focused on the following regions in Ukraine: "North-East (Kharkiv region), South (Nikolaev and Kherson regions) and South-East (Donetsk region)". Attention is paid not only to the linguistic analysis, but also to the influence of extralinguistic factors on the derivation of the oikonyms investigated.

Instead of a conclusion of my comment on the proceedings, I would like to draw the attention of future readers to the picturesque thematic variety of the onomastic topics included. Undoubtedly, all the papers represent a solid basis and a recommended and reliable source of information for upcoming articles in the field of anthroponymy and not only – the papers are fruitful for interdisciplinary research as well.

As a unique phenomenon of the human society, a means of transmitting old traditions and beliefs, a sign of identity and a proof that a given person belongs to a certain community, the anthroponym has been an object of scientific interests for centuries, being considered a highly expressive element in the process of communication.