

## **Second National History Competition**

### **“Donors and Sponsorship: Charity and Progress” 2001 / 2002**

#### ***Report***

The Second Bulgarian National History Competition takes place with the support of the Körber Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Xerox Bulgaria, 13 centuries Bulgaria National Donation Fund and in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Science, the General Archive State Agency, the Ministry of Culture, Qualification Institute for Teachers and the National Polytechnics Museum.

In October 2000, a workshop for history teachers/tutors on the subject *Methodology of the mentorship of a project research paper* was organised in Sofia. At the same time a seminar with the award-winning participants was held on the topic *Modernisation, innovation: resistance and rapture*. The students prepared an exhibition with posters and collages from the awarded research papers from the First National History Competition, which took place in the National Polytechnics Museum-Sofia, Kazanlak and Sliven.

After meetings and numerous discussions with experts deliberating over the topic of the next edition of the competition the framework theme of the Bulgarian history competition was chosen as “Donors and Sponsorship: Charity and Progress”.

Experts from the structures of the competition and partnership organisations were involved in the production of the promotional materials: a leaflet, a poster and a magazine containing the results from the first round of the competition and explaining of the new topic. In December 2000, the promotional materials for the announcement of the second competition were prepared. They were sent through the distribution network of the Ministry of Education and Science to 28 Regional Inspectorates, and through history experts they were distributed to the schools.

Part of the competition’s popularity was due to the one-minute-radio advertisement on the Bulgarian National Radio, as well as to publications in the newspaper *Azbuki* – a periodical of Bulgarian teachers. The promotional materials for the competition were shown in a series of TV programmes for secondary school students. 12 consultative seminars for students and history teachers/ tutors were organised in different towns around the country in order to explain the new theme of the history competition.

In December 2001, a seminar for history teachers/tutors was conducted on the subject of *Active learning methods in history teaching* where 21 participants took part. There were three different work sections: work with different non-typical resources, resources and critical thinking, oral history and interview techniques.

The deadline for submitting the research papers was 15 December 2001. The number of research papers received was 146 and the number of participants was 249. The papers could be divided by subject into 12 groups:

- § Libraries and books
- § Churches, monasteries, temples
- § Personalities
- § Museums
- § Community centres
- § Schools and education
- § Public healthcare
- § Charity
- § Towns and villages
- § Culture
- § Donor committees, funds and associations
- § Monuments, fountains

The object of student research papers were:

1. the personality and the role of the donator, as well as his social affiliation, profession and philosophy;
2. the variety of the donation products;
3. the objects of donation;
4. personal and community motives: the donation as a moral act;
5. donation as a factor in the process of development and progress.

The authors of the research papers mainly used written sources (archive documents, press materials), interviews and inquiries, photographs, statistics.

The jury evaluated the research papers in two stages. Two members of the jury independently of one another evaluated each paper. All jury members reviewed the nominated 25 research papers thus reaching the second stage. The public defence was held on 6 April 2002 and then the 15 prize-winners were selected.

In order to raise the awards fund many institutions and organisations were contacted and it was suggested that they set up an award on their behalf for papers dealing with the history of the respective institution or administration. About 100 students and 20 tutors received sets of books. Every participant in the competition received a certification for participation.

The five schools with the highest participation received a set of books provided by one of the biggest publishing houses in Bulgaria.

The official award ceremony for the prize-winners was held in the National History Museum on 8 June 2002 where the Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria bestowed the awards. The Third round of the National History Competition 2003-2004 will be held under the aegis of the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

*Liliana Panova*  
competition co-ordinator