

PAGINA TÂNĂRULUI CERCETĂTOR

Radina BOZHILOVA

**On Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova's contribution
to the preparation and realization of volume I and II
of the *Априлско въстание 1876* collection**

<https://doi.org/10.52603/rec.2023.33.12>

Rezumat

**Contribuția lui Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova
la pregătirea și realizarea volum I și II
despre *Априлско въстание 1876***

Arhiva Istorică Bulgară este una dintre cele mai vechi arhive din Bulgaria. Formarea colecției de arhivă a început imediat după eliberarea țării (1878). Din 1921 a devenit Departament de Arhivare independent și a îndeplinit funcțiile Arhivelor de Stat din Bulgaria până la emiterea Decretului № 515 privind înființarea Fondului de Arhivă de Stat. Cadrul cronologic al colecției depășește această perioadă, iar arhiva păstrează destul de multe documente despre noua istorie a Bulgariei. Unul dintre cei mai proeminenți angajați ai arhivei – Kirila Vazvazova lasă în urmă o serie de colecții completate de documente care dau impuls științei istorice din țară. Unul dintre cele mai semnificative momente în acest sens este pregătirea primului și celui de-al doilea volum al colecției „Априлско въстание 1876” publicată de Arhiva Istorică Bulgară în perioada 1944–1955. Participarea la elaborarea acestei culegeri, în primii ani de activitate în AIB, este foarte activă. Ea se angajează în căutare, cercetare aprofundată a materialelor documentare și a amenajării acestora. Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova a compilat titlurile documentelor, precum și notele explicative la acestea.

Cuvinte-cheie: Arhiva Istorică Bulgară, publicație, colecții de arhive, documente de arhivă, „Априлско въстание 1876”, Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova.

Резюме

**О вкладе Кирилы Вазвазовой-Каратеодоровой в
подготовку I и II томов, посвященных
Апрельскому восстанию 1876 г.**

Болгарский исторический архив – один из старейших архивов Болгарии. Формирование архивной коллекции началось сразу после освобождения страны (1878). С 1921 г. он стал самостоятельным Архивным отделом и выполнял функции Государственного архива Болгарии до выхода Указа № 515 о создании Государственного архивного фонда. Хронологический диапазон коллекции обширен, она содержит немало документов о новой истории Болгарии. Один из самых видных сотрудников архива – Кирилы Вазвазова – оставила после себя ряд полностью завершённых сборников документов, которые придали ощутимый импульс исторической науке в стране. Одним из наиболее значимых трудов в этой области является составление первого и второго томов сборника «Априлско въстание 1876», изданного Болгарским историческим архивом в период 1944–1955 гг. Ее участие в сборнике в первые годы деятельности в БИА было очень активным. Она берет на себя большую часть работы по подготовке коллекции, организуя тщательный поиск документальных материалов и их размещение. Кирилы Вазвазова-Каратеодорова сформулировала названия докумен-

тов, а также составила пояснительные записки к ним.

Ключевые слова: Болгарский исторический архив, издание, сборник архивных документов, Апрельское восстание, Кирилы Вазвазова-Каратеодорова.

Summary

**On Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova's contribution
to the preparation and realization of volume I and II of
the *Априлско въстание 1876* collection**

The Bulgarian Historical Archive is one of the oldest archives in Bulgaria. The formation of the archival collection began immediately after the Liberation of Bulgaria (1878). From 1921, it became an independent Archival Department and performed the functions of the State Archives of Bulgaria until the issuance of Decree No. 515 on the establishment of the State Archival Fund. The Decree revokes the functions of the National Library of the Central Archive Repository and does not envisage the preservation of the collections of archival documents in the Archives Department. The library management, based on the experience in other countries, takes a number of steps to preserve and increase its archival collections. The chronological scope of the collection exceeds this period and BIA keeps quite a few documents about the new history of Bulgaria. One of the most prominent employees of the archive – Kirila Vazvazova leaves behind a number of fully completed collections of documents that give impetus to the historical science in Bulgaria. One of the most significant moments in this direction is the compilation of the first and second volumes of the collection “Априлско въстание 1876” published by the Bulgarian Historical Archive in the period 1944–1955. Her involvement in it, in the first years of her employment at BIA, is very active. She undertakes most of the the preparation and work on the collection, organizing a thorough search for the documentary materials and their placement. Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova compiled the titles of the documents, as well as explanatory notes to them.

Key words: Bulgarian Historical Archive, publication, archival collections, archival documents, April Uprising, Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova.

After 1944, the Archival Department at the National Library – Sofia (later renamed to Bulgarian Historical Archive – BHA) began exercising large-scale activities of collecting and publishing historical records. This practice was somewhat provoked by the new communist party's agenda which was presented to the Bulgarian historical science.

The 1952 Interior Regulation Codex of the Bulgarian Historical Archive at the “Vasil Kolarov” State Library set primary objectives that involved the publication of scientific volumes in the form of

synopses, documentary collections, scientific announcements, papers in the field of archival theory and practice, historical studies, etc. (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4147, л. 1). Therefore, the publication of methodological guidebooks reflecting on the many aspects of working in BHA was encouraged, and so a focus on strengthening the collaboration with other scientific institutes and departments with similar activities and common interests was set (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4149, л. 31).

In 1948, Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova abandoned her job as editor at the Ministry of Information to move to the “Bulgarian Historical Archive” Department at the “Cyril and Methodius” National Library. She was born on November 25, 1917 in Aytos (НБКМ-БИА, ф. 854, оп. 1, а. е. 1, л. 1) in a family of Bulgarians, who were descendants of the participants in the wars for the Unification of the Bulgarian Principality and Eastern Romelia, and for the Liberation of Macedonia. She obtained two majors from “Kliment Ohridski” University of Sofia – History and Classical Philology (НБКМ-БИА, ф. 854, оп. 2, а. е. 1, л. 9). Ever since her university days, she had been expressing interest in the Bulgarian Revival, its history and the archival resources related to it.

In the meantime, the Bulgarian Historical Archive commenced the publication of historical sources in written form. According to a 1950 report accounting for the scientific work of the BHA, it becomes evident that the department’s team of scientific associates (including Kirila Vazvazova, Viktoria Taleva, Bonka Todorova and Zdravka Noneva) worked on the preparation of Volume I of the documentary collection “National and Revolutionary Movement in the Revival Age” and the bibliography book “Априлско въстание 1876”¹ (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4157, л. 34). In addition to the bibliography book and the concomitant tasks involved in the official celebration to mark the 75 years anniversary since the April Uprising, Paragraph 7 of the BHA’s 1951 Annual Plan proposed publishing a documentary collection about the uprising (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4150, л. 14).

In late 1951, it was accounted that 400,000 records had been reviewed during the preparation process, 220,000 of which are stored at BHA of the “Vasil Kolarov” State Library, 160,000 – in other institutions in Sofia, and 20,000 in provincial areas (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4156, л. 4).

The foreword of the collection reveals the names of the institutions whose personnel worked

together on the study of 160,000 documents. The list includes “Hristo Botev” Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Science, National Assembly’s Archive, Church History Museum, Sofia City Archive, Department for Pensions, Museum of the Revolutionary Movement, archives at libraries in Panagyurishte, Perushtitsa, Bratsigovo, Plovdiv, Pazardzhik, etc. (Априлско 1954: 3).

Originally, the volume was to comprise 446 of full-text documents, but eventually the number increased to 476. These documents are considered “primary sources” set in a chronological frame starting from October 1, 1875 to the beginning of 1877 (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4156, л. 5).

Due to the editors’ insufficient experience in dealing with historical records, difficulties occurred along the publishing process. The editors attempted to use as examples the already existing documentary collections dedicated to Dimitar Strashimirov and Petar Nikov, however, those did not meet the scientific criteria. Therefore, for the making of the collection of “Априлско въстание 1876”, they adhered to the Soviet model for preparation and publication of documents (Априлско 1954: 3), simply because they knew it well enough.

The documents in the collection are firsthand, i. e. their origin relates either to actual participants in the uprising or direct eye-witnesses of the events. The records, which appear in the form of letters, protocols, diplomatic reports, telegrams, receipts, etc., follow the preparation and the outbreak of the uprising. Documents, published earlier in time, could not be found in archival catalogues; therefore, they were not published due to insufficient trustworthiness (Априлско 1954: 4).

Some of them were created in a foreign language: Russian, Serbian, French, German, English, Romanian, etc. The texts were published in the original language with a translation, and those documents of mixed origin, such as Bulgarian-Serbian, were transcribed into Bulgarian, wherein some Serbian letters and symbols were replaced with Bulgarian equivalents. All texts were rendered with the idea of modernizing the orthography, graphics and punctuation, i. e. in a scientific and critical manner. A slight modification to the language of some documents had been made upon the recommendation of the editor Aleksandar Burmov with the purpose for more clarity and less content alteration to be achieved.

Each document contained an editorial title and explanation. Each title included the date, place of

creation, type, the author's name and addressee. The scientific and referential apparatus in the collection comprises of a foreword, abbreviation legend and explanatory notes, index of personal and geographical names, and a subject index.

The creation of the collection was accomplished under Kirila Vazvazova's guidance and with the assistance of the BHA team, whose members were already mentioned above. Vazvazova conducted a detailed study of the documents and classified them appropriately. She wrote titles, annotations and explanatory notes about the individuals mentioned in the papers (Априлско 1954: 4).

The first quarterly activity report of the National Library confirms that the creation of the collection was completed and submitted to Professor Aleksandar Burmov, the editor-in-chief, according to schedule. The editing process took 400 days, which significantly exceeded the time frame usually given to other activities at the BHA (Априлско 1954: 22).

Engrossed with work, Burmov could not manage to complete the editing on time. This enforced the department to hand in the second unedited copy of the collection to the publisher on December 1, 1952 on condition that the editor's notes would be included later on. In the same month, the department and the publisher reached an agreement on the collection's volume and publication date. As planned, it comprised three parts, the first two of which included the documents of the Bulgarian Historical Archive.

Part One had to be put in print by the end of the first quarter of 1953, and Part Two – later that same year. Part Two includes 483 documents regarding the preparation, the outbreak and the suppression of the April Uprising. A great number of these documents were created by the insurgents themselves during the period from October 1, 1875 to March 17, 1877. As planned, Part Two included three appendixes: a) 1217 annotated documents including a wide range of evidence, i. e. materials regarding conducted surveys in relation to the determination of the Turkish brutality; materials regarding the formation of a committee of inquiry; materials regarding the formed friendship societies and committees, or other first-hand source materials, such as memoirs, hand notes, journals, registers, etc.; b) 1087 annotated pension acts related to the insurgents.

While the collection was being created, the indexes to Part One and Part Two were already completed, but not set in the right order yet. The third appendix that supplemented Part Two, and also

Volume III of the edition, had been worked out by the Oriental Studies Department at National Library (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4156, л. 8).

At that time, the delayed publishing of the collection brought severe criticism upon the Bulgarian Historical Archive, despite the fact that Professor Aleksandar Burmov's belated engagement was the reason behind the delay. BHA's 1953 report points that both Volume I and Volume II were completed by the compliers, however, Volume II had still been revised by the editor-in-chief, Prof. Burmov at the time. It is explained that Volume I was handed in to Izdatelstvo Nauka i izkustvo Publisher. It had been peer-reviewed, ready for print, and yet pending because of Burmov's final directives regarding a few additional corrections (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4156, л. 13).

In 1954, BHA reported that the engagement with the "Априлско въстание 1876" collection had consumed 206 days of work instead of the initially scheduled 181. The team took note of the criticism, therefore, speeded up the collection's completion (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4156, л. 23). As a result, Volume I was published in 1954.

Volume II of the "Априлско въстание 1876" documentary collection came out in the following year, 1955. The compliers' original idea was to include materials in the appendix section of the already printed Volume I (1954) due to the fact that those documents were interconnected not only by the common theme, the structure, and the origin but also because they complemented and corresponded to one another (Априлско 1954: 3).

Due to its large content, Volume I was not published in its original size. Some of the documents were published in a separate book. The same approach was applied to Volume II. It contains 2382 annotated documents, whose texts had been summarized through the method of *regesti*, a procedure of shortening the contents of documents, whereas preserving their original form (Нейкова 1987: 337).

Considered of 'high historical value', correspondences between contemporaries, who were not direct participants in the events of 1876, were also included in the collections, as well as correspondences between eye-witnesses of the events following the end of the uprising. Those contained information based on a survey from the suppression of the uprising. Additional documents, written by insurgents, equally interesting and important, that appeared on the collection's pages included: letters, memoirs, certificates, letters of requests, etc. (Априлско 1955: 3).

The materials are systematized in two sections: the first one contains annotations to separate documents, and the second one – annotations from pension acts.

The BHA's first quarterly activity report of 1955 indicates that the department's scientific study process that involved planned collective tasks and personal scientific tasks, particularly working on the April Uprising Collection, Volume II, fitted in with the schedule. The editor's alterations, indexes and corrections had been made and the collection was to be published soon in 36 printed sheets, 34 of which were completed and fully revised at the time. Presumably, the collection was to be available for purchase in January 1956 (ЦДА, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4156, л. 30).

Published in 1956, Volume III provided Ottoman-Turkish archive materials related to the April Uprising and the cruel challenges that Bulgarian people had to face in its aftermath (Нейкова 2000: 290).

Elaborated by the Oriental Collections Department at the National Library, this volume contains documents provided by the department and they are not the subject of this study, therein they will not be reviewed in detail. In the following years, BHA together with Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova continued to create and publish documentary collections related to the Liberation, the Bulgarian Unification, etc.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that during the Soviet Era, the BHA became one of the major publishing centers. On the whole, the reviewed documentary editions remain high-quality scientific material and are considered a contribution to the Bulgarian historical science and the development of historical records publishing. It is also important to mention that during the process of preparation, wherein Kirila Vazvazova-Karateodorova plays a key role, the compilers followed the Soviet archeographic rules and methodological guides as well as the later created Publication Rules for Records of Bulgarian History (XVIII–XX).

Note

¹ The April Uprising of 1876.

References

Априлско въстание 1876. Сборник с документи. 1954. Т. I. Съст. К. Каратеодорова и др. Ред. Ал. Бурмов. София: Наука и изкуство. / *Aprilsko vastanie 1876. Sbornik s dokumenti*. 1954. T. I.

Sast. K. Karateodorova i dr. Red. Al. Burmov. Sofia: Nauka i izkustvo.

Априлско въстание 1876. Сборник с документи. 1955. Т. II. Съст. К. Каратеодорова и др. Ред. Ал. Бурмов. София: Наука и изкуство. / *Aprilsko vastanie 1876. Sbornik s dokumenti*. 1955. T. II. Sast. K. Karateodorova i dr. Red. Al. Burmov. Sofia: Nauka i izkustvo.

Национална библиотека „Св. Св. Кирил и Методий“ – Български исторически архив (НБ-КМ-БИА), ф. 854, оп. 1, а. е. 1 / *Natsionalna biblioteka „Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodiy“*, *Balgarski istoricheski arhiv (NBKM-BIA)*, f. 854, op. 1, a. e. 1.

Нейкова А. 1992. Идеи и програми за издирване и публикуване на писмени извори за българската история. In: *Годишник на Софийският университет. Исторически факултет*, № 84–85, с. 287–325. / *Neykova A. 1992. Idei i programi za izdirvane i publikuvane na pismeni izvori za balgarskata istoria*. In: *Godishnik na Sofiyskia universitet. Istoricheski fakultet*, no. 84–85, s. 287–325.

Нейкова А. 1987. Регестите – преходна форма при описанието на архивни документи и тяхното публикуване. In: *Научни конференции по архивознание. Материали от националната научно-приложна конференция „Научносправочен апарат в архивите и пътища за осъвършенстването му“*, ноември 1986 г. Т. X., с. 335–342. / *Neykova A. 1987. Regestite – prehodna forma pri opisaniето na arhivni dokumenti i tyahnoto publikuvane*. In: *Nauchni konferentsii po arhivoznanie. Materiali ot natsionalnata nauchno-prilozhna konferentsia „Nauchnospravochin aparat v arhivite i patishta za osavarshenstvaneto mu“*, noemvri 1986 g. T. H, 1987, s. 335–342.

Централен държавен архив (ЦДА) – София, ф. 1137, оп. 1, а. е. 4147, 4149, 4150, 4156, 4157. / *Tsentrален darzhaven arhiv (TDA) – Sofia*, f. 1137, op. 1, a. e. 4147, 4147, 4149, 4150, 4156, 4157.

Radina Ivo Bojilova (Sofia, Bulgaria). Doctoranda, Universitatea „St. Kliment Ohridski” din Sofia.

Радина Иво Божилова (София, България). Докторант, Софийският университет им. Св. Климента Охридского.

Radina Ivo Bozhilova (Sofia, Bulgaria). PhD student, “St. Kliment Ohridski” University of Sofia.

E-mail: radina_bojilova947@abv.bg

ORCID: 0000-0003-3623-5242