

*Kiril Topalov*

*IVAN SHISHMANOV – AN APOSTLE OF BULGARIAN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE*

*Among the founders of the Bulgarian Humanities, such as M. Drinov, M. Dragomanov, Al.Teodorov-Balan, with the greatest weight and authority stands the name of a scientist who europeanized the Bulgarian science at the end of 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries – that of professor Ivan Shishmanov. A graduate from the University of Vienna, he studied in the most prestigious European universities of his time – in Leipzig, Yena and Geneva. After the Bulgarian national liberation and the creation of the contemporary Bulgarian state in 1878 he returns to his home country to establish and develop some of the much needed disciplines in philological science, such as Folklore, Literature, History of European Literature, and Comparative Literature, among others. Shishmanov not only established all four of them at the same time, but he set the course of their development for decades to come. His name is associated with the creation or development of many important cultural and scientific institutions: the University of Sofia, the oldest and most prestigious higher education institution in the country to the present, the Ministry of Education, the Bulgarian National Theatre, the Ethnographic Museum, the Bulgarian Archeological Society, the School of Arts, the Academy of Music, the Bulgarian PEN Centre, and many others.*