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*Teodoritschka Gotovska-Henze*

*P. J. ŠAFÁRIK (ŠAFAŘÍK, SCHAFFARIK) AND HIS FIRST CONTACTS  
WITH THE SOUTH SLAVS AND BULGARIANS*

*The article presents and analyses the first contacts of the famous Slavs-researcher Pavel Jozeph Šafárik with the Serbs of Voivodina and the Bulgarians. Šafárik spent 14 years as a teacher at a Serbian secondary school at Neusatz/Novi Sad and during this stay he learned the local languages and dialects and studied the medieval texts, preserved in the Serbian monasteries at Frushka Gora, thus approving his knowledge on the orthodox literature written in Cyrillic alphabet. He got to know some Bulgarian traders, who were passing Neusatz, studied thoroughly their dialect and despite the fact that this first knowledge of their language was not sufficient, he was convinced that the Bulgarian Dialect (and not the Slovene as other scientists claimed at that time) was the one used by Sts. Cyril and Methodius as a base for the first Church literary language, which they invented in the ninth century and then preached on among the Slavs. Šafárik was keen to visit South Bulgarian regions in order to prove his assumption, however the Russian-Turkish War of 1829 had prevent him from doing this journey and in 1833 he left the region for ever.*

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