

HISTORY OF FORMATION BASIS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN BULGARIA

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Bulgaria has a stable legislative practice in the field of cultural heritage. The beginning of the Bulgarian revival dates back to the second half of the 18th century. As in other Slavic countries, it is a period of the formation of the nation, enlightenment and development of culture. The first Bulgarian law of 1889 that governs these issues can rightfully be considered one of the oldest in Europe. Its action covers a wide range of protection of monuments – coins, historical documents and materials of verbal culture. The law consists of fifty articles, divided into three sections. The entry into force of the first "Law on the Search for Antiquities and the Support of Scientific and Literary Enterprises" in Bulgaria was a crucial step for further work in this direction. Over the 20 years of the operation of this Law, the first institutions were created to preserve the cultural heritage and protect the monuments of the richest Bulgarian cultural and historical history. The new European page in Bulgarian legislation on the preservation of cultural monuments marks the adoption of the Antiquities Act in 1911. Its authors are outstanding scientists and educators who have received higher education at major European universities. Therefore, the Law of 1911 was drawn up in accordance with the best European models of that time. The new law provides for the establishment of the Office for the Preservation and Protection of Antiquities. The categorical formulations of the Law on Antiquities contributed to the establishment of law and order in the field of discovery, preservation and demonstration of cultural monuments on Bulgarian lands. In the period after the Liberation from Turkish rule before World War II, legislation was created in Bulgaria that clearly formulated the goals, objectives and functions of museums, and formed a comprehensive structure for the protection of cultural heritage. Bulgaria has an exceptional archaeological heritage, which has a complex structure, carries unique information and is of high cultural value. This heritage is very vulnerable in modern conditions, both climatic and as a result of the existing construction load, especially in the centers of historical cities.

ІСТОРІЯ ФОРМУВАННЯ ОСНОВ ОХОРОНИ КУЛЬТУРНОЇ СПАДЩИНИ БОЛГАРІЇ

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Ключові слова: пам'ятник, меморіал, закон, охорона пам'яток, збереження, національна спадщина, зони археологічних розкопок.

Болгарія має стійку законодавчу практику в області культурної спадщини. Початок Болгарського відродження відноситься до другої половини XVIII ст. Як і в інших слов'янських країнах, цей час є періодом становлення нації, освіти та бурхливого розвитку культури. Перший болгарський закон 1889, який регулює ці питання можна по праву вважати одним з найстаріших в Європі. Його дія охоплює широке коло охорони пам'яток – монет, історичних документів та матеріалів словесної культури. Закон складається з п'ятдесяти статей, розділених на три розділи. Введення в силу першого «Закону про пошук старожитностей і підтримки наукових та літературних підприємств» в Болгарії стало найважливішим етапом для подальшої роботи в цьому напрямку. За 20 років дії цього Закону були

створені перші інституції для збереження культурної спадщини, охорони пам'ятників багатоюї болгарської культурної та національної історії. Нову європейську сторінку в болгарському законодавстві про збереження пам'яток культури знаменує прийняття Закону про старожитності у 1911 році. Його авторами були видатні вчені і педагоги, які здобули освіту в найвідоміших визнаних європейських університетах. Тому Закон 1911 року укладено відповідно до кращих європейських зразків того часу. Новий закон передбачає створення Управління по збереженню та охороні старожитностей. Категоричні формулювання Закону про старожитності сприяли встановленню правопорядку в області виявлення, збереження і демонстрації культурних пам'яток на болгарських землях. У період після Звільнення від турецького панування до Другої світової війни в Болгарії створюється законодавство, в якому чітко сформульовані цілі, завдання та функції музеїв, а також і формується розгорнута структура охорони культурної спадщини.

Problem statement. The beginning of the Bulgarian revival dates back to the second half of the 18th century. As in other Slavic countries, it is a period of the formation of the nation, enlightenment and development of culture. On the Balkan Peninsula, revival processes are carried out in the absence of independent states and the Orthodox Church. The revival in Bulgaria is carried out in two stages – enlightening and revolutionary. The most important tasks of the enlighteners and revolutionaries were to restore the independence of the church (it was in the hands of the Ecumenical Patriarchate) and the struggle for national independence. In the first half of the nineteenth century. Enlightenment ideas find expression in the new school system of education in the Bulgarian language and in the development of printing. Then the foundations of collecting antiquities are laid. Attitude to medieval history in Bulgaria is associated not only with the processes of formation of national consciousness, but also with the pan-Slavic movement of romanticism and the study of the historical heritage of the Slavs.

The next step in the development of heritage is an increased interest in antiquity, expressed in the search for specific facts, documents or material evidence. The subject itself as a carrier of information begins to attract the attention of scientists in the 1840s.

The analysis of sources and recent researches.

The Bulgarians, who study in Russia, the future enlighteners Vasil Aprilov and Lyuben Karavelov, are among the first researchers and popularizers of antiquities. They seek, describe and preserve material and verbal monuments. In 1859, Georgy Rakovsky created the first program to search for, collect, study, and preserve "popular memorial antiquities"

and pay particular attention to monasteries and their treasures¹. The activity of the enlighteners reflects not only nationality outside the enslaved homeland, but also is the result of increased interest in the antiquity of the Slavs.

In the period after the Liberation from Turkish rule before World War II, legislation was created in Bulgaria that clearly formulated the goals, objectives and functions of museums, and formed a comprehensive structure for the protection of cultural heritage². In the Principality of Bulgaria, with the assistance of the Russian administration, under the leadership of Prince Alexander Dondukov-Korsakov and Count Peter Alabin, in 1878 a public library with a museum was created. In the southern part of the country, which is called Eastern Rumelia and which until 1908 remains an autonomous Turkish province, the Directorate of Public Education preserves the historical heritage. The Russian Archaeological Institute in Constantinople also provides active support in the research of Bulgarian antiquities³.

Research methods and publication's purpose.

In this scientific study, the methodological basis of the study is the historical method of research, based on the study of the emergence, formation, and development of objects in chronological sequence, which achieves an in-depth understanding of the essence of the problem. In addition, a chronological method was used, which provides for the pre-

¹ Иванова Б. Болгарские музеи и музейное законодательство: история и современность. *Вопросы музеологии*. 2012. №1(5). С. 148-149.

² Болгария и Россия (XVIII–XX век): взаимопознание. Отв. ред.: Г. Д. Гачев, Р. Дамянова. М.: Институт славяноведения РАН, 2010. 476 с.

³ Басаргина Е. Ю. Русский археологический институт в Константинополе. Очерки истории. СПб.: Дмитрий Буланин, 1999. 245 с.

sentation of historical material in chronological order at all stages of the development of a historical phenomenon, the methods of bibliographic and source analysis used in the search, systematization, and processing of primary information. The principles of historical validity, objectivity, consistency, and complexity have also been applied.

Statement of the basic material. The newly created Bulgarian state is taking a series of legislative measures to preserve historical and cultural monuments. On May 1, 1882, the first act related to museum business was published – it is the "Public Administrative Rules on the Organization and Management of Regional Libraries and Museums", and since 1888 the "Temporary Rules for Scientific and Literary Enterprises" have been in force⁴. The first section says that all undiscovered antiquities belong to the state: "all antiquities, regardless of where they are, are state property". This document first recorded that the removal of monuments occurs only with the permission of the Ministry of Education. Then, the procedure for the purchase of finds and permits for archaeological excavations, which are issued by the Ministry of Education, is determined. The second section of the Temporary Rules is devoted to the search and description of folklore and ethnographic materials: folk songs, sayings, riddles, traditions, customs, and much more. They are collected, processed and published by the Ministry of Education. For this, the first budget of 60 thousand leva was allocated in the budget of the ministry⁵. Temporary rules for a short period served the purpose of organizing a number of archaeological and ethnographic studies in the country. These are the first legislative decrees that limited hunters of antiquities and those who tried to take Bulgarian historical and cultural monuments abroad. Temporary rules also govern Book Companies, i.e. they also laid the foundations of publishing in the country.

A fundamental change in state policy in the field of antiquities occurred with the adoption on November 27, 1889 of the "Law on the Search for Antiquities and the Support of Scientific and Literary Enterprises"⁶. Its action covers a wide range of protection of monuments – coins, historical doc-

⁴ Закон за издирване на стариини и за спомагане научни и книжовни предприятия. Държавен вестник. 1890. XI, бр. 13, 17 януари.

⁵ Радева М. Културната политика на българската държава (1885-1908). София: Университетско изд-во «Св. Климент Охридски», 2002. С. 49.

⁶ Закон за издирване на стариини и за спомагане научни и книжовни предприятия. Държавен вестник. 1890. XI, бр. 13, 17 януари.

uments and materials of verbal culture⁷. The law consists of fifty articles, divided into three sections: Section I. On the search for antiquities and the promotion of scientific and publishing activities (art. 1-21); Section II. Collection and description of verbal materials (art. 22-31); Section III. Publishing activities (art. 32-50).

Its first section is devoted to the search for antiquities – coins, monuments, statues, tombs, weapons, guns, as well as documents – manuscripts, old printed books (art. 1-21).

Article 1 of the Law expressly emphasizes that all "undiscovered materials and ancient objects, wherever they are, belong to the state" (art. 1).

The law governs the purchase of antiques by their owners or the discovery by archaeological sites with the permission of the Ministry of Education. The assessment of monuments and documents is carried out by a commission appointed by the ministry (art. 4). Those who submitted their old manuscripts, old books, costumes, coins, guns (not artillery implements, but tools and agricultural implements – implements) and the like (art. 6) also receive a reward. A curious detail in the assessment of these ancient books, monuments and materials is the democratic way of forming a committee for their assessment – one representative of the ministry and its owner (art. 6).

Even more interesting is the decision of the law, if the two parties do not agree on a price, "the assessment is carried out by the Cabinet of Ministers" (art. 6). The fact that only the Cabinet of Ministers is engaged in the assessment of controversial monuments, only indicates that the Bulgarian state sets itself the task of searching and collecting under its protection all significant historical and cultural monuments and documents from Bulgarian lands.

Article 8 states that "discovered immovable antiquities, such as temples, fortresses and others, wherever they are, are under the control of local authorities and are the property of the government"⁸ (art. 8). Thus, the state establishes control over the monuments and monitors their preservation.

The following several articles of the law detail the order of archaeological excavations, their control by the Ministry of Education and the procedure for the purchase of finds by the state (art. 9-16).

⁷ Иванова Б. Болгарские музеи и музейное законодательство: история и современность. Вопросы музеологии. 2012. №1(5). С. 151.

⁸ Закон за издирване на стариини и за спомагане научни и книжовни предприятия. Държавен вестник. 1890. XI, бр. 13, 17 януари. Art. 8.

Newly discovered movable monuments must be described and transferred for payment through local authorities to the Ministry of Education (art. 17). Thus, the state seeks to preserve and preserve movable and immovable monuments in the country for several generations.

The export of antiquities is carried out in accordance with article 8 of the Law on Customs and only according to the lists approved by the Ministry of Education. All antique items that are exported "secretly", i.e. illegally, must be confiscated by the state (art. 19). At the same time, the Ministry of Education organizes scientific expeditions to various parts of the country with the aim of systematically collecting movable monuments and describing immovable monuments (art. 21).

The second section of the Law is devoted to the collection of verbal materials: songs, sayings, riddles, legends, stories and customs (art. 22-31). The Ministry of Education is also entrusted with the full organization, evaluation and publication of field oral materials. Commissions of specialists select and submit newly submitted materials for printing.

The third section of the Law is devoted to "Book Companies". The state seeks to encourage the authors and publishers of the Bulgarian book by providing financial assistance, the procedure for conducting competitions for the publication of textbooks and scientific literature is indicated.

The last article 50 provides for the publication by the Ministry of a "special journal", which will publish "collected verbal materials, their descriptions and ratings, descriptions and images of various ancient objects, the most important reviews, as well as everything valuable that has been delivered to the Ministry in the field of antiquities and literature"⁹ (art. 50).

The entry into force of the first "Law on the Search for Antiquities and the Support of Scientific and Literary Enterprises" in Bulgaria was a crucial step for further work in this direction. In 1890, museums in the country have not yet been built. Archaeological excavations were carried out by enthusiasts, mainly teachers. Treasure hunters uncontrollably destroyed burial grounds and other archaeological sites. Folklore material was collected, as during the Renaissance, by school and community centers. There were no scientific institutions involved in the study of Bulgarian spiritual and material culture.

⁹ Закон за издиране на стариини и за спомагане научни и книжовни предприятия. Държавен вестник. 1890. XI, бр. 13, 17 януари. Art. 50.

Over the 20 years of the operation of this Law, the first institutions were created to preserve the cultural heritage and protect the monuments of the richest Bulgarian cultural and historical history. The young Bulgarian state, despite the economic difficulties after the Unification, allocates more and more funds for culture and, therefore, for the purchase of antiquities. At the end of the 19th century, such appropriations were allocated: in 1889 – 70 thousand leva, 1890 – 90 thousand leva, 1891 – 90 thousand leva, 1892 – 120 thousand leva, 1893 – 143 thousand leva, 1894 – 140 thousand leva¹⁰. In particular, in 1894 the budget of the National Library was 20,460 leva, and the National Museum – 9120 leva¹¹.

A powerful incentive for the search, collection, scientific processing and publication of folklore and ethnographic material was the "Collection of Folk Songs, Science and Literature" (SbNUNK) in 1889. As already mentioned, the last article of the Law on the Search for Antiquities and the Support of Scientific and Literary Enterprises provided for the creation of such a periodic body in the future to publish materials collected by the ministry. Nine years were necessary to complete the preparatory process, and finally, an extremely important scientific platform arises in the Bulgarian cultural space.

The first issue of the Collection of 1889 opens with a programmatic article by I. Shishmanov "Tasks of Bulgarian Ethnography"¹². In it, he examines the achievements of Bulgarian ethnographic science and outlines the enormous difficulties that it faces at the end of the 19th century, advocates the early establishment of ethnography on a serious scientific basis, for further in-depth studies of all areas of Bulgarian material and spiritual life, heritage and culture. The vast majority of materials collected and published in the Collection are mainly folklore. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Liberation, Professor I. Shishmanov notes: "As a body dedicated to the comprehensive study of the land and our people, the Collection would like to attract more and more helpers to other areas of our national life and domestic science"¹³. Professor

¹⁰ Радева М. Културната политика на българската държава (1885-1908). София: Университетско изд-во «Св. Климент Охридски», 2002. С. 51.

¹¹ Радева М. Културната политика на българската държава (1885-1908). София: Университетско изд-во «Св. Климент Охридски», 2002. С. 54.

¹² Шишманов И. Значението и задачите на нашата етнография. Сборник за народни умотворения, наука и книжнина. 1889. Т. I. С. 1-64.

¹³ Шишманов И. Предговор. Сборник за народни умотворения, наука и книжнина. 1894. Т. X. С. VII-XI.

Shishmanov points to a lag in the study of the material culture of the Bulgarian people.

The tenth issue of the Collection of Folk Songs, Science and Literature is marked by a special article, which analyzes the work done. It is noted that three quarters of the collected material has been published, mainly recordings of customs, rituals, songs, tales, legends, riddles, sayings and much more. In order to further expand the circle of involved participants and collectors, the Ministry of Public Education Decree No. 9530 of December 1, 1900 was published, in which all school inspectors were instructed to encourage teachers to actively search and collect materials in the field of folklore, dialectology and ethnography. For the same purpose, guidelines for teachers were published and summarized, as well as the conditions for teachers' remuneration in 8 points¹⁴.

The new European page in Bulgarian legislation on the preservation of cultural monuments marks the adoption of the Antiquities Act in 1911¹⁵. Its authors are such outstanding scientists and educators as prof. Ivan Shishmanov, Vasil Zlatarsky, Andrei Protich and others who have received higher education at major European universities. Therefore, the Law of 1911 was drawn up in accordance with the best European models of that time. In this regard, the builders of new Bulgaria were aware of certain similar laws adopted in Greece in 1834, in England in 1882, in France in 1887 and many others¹⁶.

Section 1 of the Antiquities Act explicitly states: "All movable and immovable antiquities in the kingdom are under the highest supervision of the Ministry of Public Education, which takes care of their preservation and maintenance"¹⁷ (art. 1). The definition of antiquities is very important. According to the law, "Antiquities are considered monuments, documents and works of art from the earliest times until the liberation of Bulgaria, which have historical, archaeological, artistic and paleontological significance, such as ancient buildings and ruins, ancient settlements, chalets (hisars), churches, church houses, monasteries, mosques, minarets, fountains, wells, aqueducts, bridges, roads, barrows, tombs, broken stones, etc.; antique objects from different

¹⁴ Окръжно на Министерството на народното просвещение № 9530 от 1 декември 1900 г. Сборник за народни умствования, наука и книжнина. 1900. Т. 16-17. С. VII-XIV.

¹⁵ Закон за старините. Държавен вестник. 1911, бр. 37, 18 февруари 1911.

¹⁶ Недков С. История на музейното дело в България. София: Агенция Европрес, 2006. 376 с.

¹⁷ Закон за старините. Държавен вестник. 1911, бр. 37, 18 февруари 1911. Art. 1.

materials, such as statues, plates with images, stones with inscriptions and ornaments, pottery, weapons and other metal artifacts and decorations, coins, seals, stone and bone tools, wall, fabric or wood paintings, mosaics, icons and other church supplies, various threads, glassware, fossil animals and plant remains of prehistoric times, fossils, etc." (art. 2). In addition, a number of other written and material monuments related to antiquities are listed.

The new law provides for the establishment of the Office for the Preservation and Protection of Antiquities. It is headed by the director of the National Archaeological Museum, it includes the directors of the Ethnographic Museum and the National Library in Sofia, as well as three people appointed by the Minister of Education, and three delegates of choice from archaeological societies that organized the museums. This Office is authorized to make decisions on all fundamental issues related to the search, preservation and protection of antiquities. The specific tasks of the Office are: the definition of archaeological excavations conducted by the state; permission for archaeological excavations and drilling; pricing of items and collections offered for purchase; organizing descriptions of antiquities and developing an archaeological map of Bulgaria; distribution of funds allocated from the budget to archaeological societies and museums of the country, etc. (art. 3-7).

One of the most important provisions of the law is related to the promulgation of all cultural monuments in the country. Therefore, within one year from the date of its publication, all state and public institutions (municipalities, churches, monasteries, metropolises, schools, community centers, archaeological and other societies) that have antiquities must submit their artifacts to the Ministry of Education. Based on these artifacts, it is proposed to compile a list of antiquities that are under the direct control of the state and cannot be expropriated. The basic rules for the preservation of antiquities and the respective responsibilities of their owners are also described in the Law.

The law is very strict for those who find antiquities and do not notify the nearest county or city museum. Movable monuments must be confiscated immediately. Persons who report their discovery receive half the value of the items. The provisions of this Law may apply to movable antiquities belonging to private individuals, and they may be subject to an inventory only by direct decision of the Antiquities Authority. After the decision of the Directorate has been communicated to the owner, such

antiquities cannot be sold, donated, converted, etc. With the possible sale of such antiquities by the owner, the state has the first right to redeem them within three months (art. 21).

The export of antiquities abroad is very strictly controlled by the Ministry of Education. Permission is issued after the presentation of the antiquities themselves, accompanied by a list and conclusion of the Antiquities Authority. The state has the right within 6 months to acquire those monuments that are necessary for the replenishment of museum collections. All antiquities seized during export without permission are subject to confiscation in favor of the state (art. 23).

A special section of the Antiquities Act is dedicated to real estate. He repeats the wording of the law published in 1890, but the text is more categorical: "all immovable antiquities, wherever they are, belong to the state" (art. 25). The preservation of real estate monuments is carefully regulated in cases where they are threatened with demolition due to the need for new buildings. New construction near architectural monuments can be carried out taking into account the opinion of the Antiquities Authority and only with the permission of the Ministry of Education (art. 27).

The Antiquities Act clearly and categorically solves the problem that concerns us now – the relationship between the state and private owners of buildings declared architectural monuments. Article 11 states: "The State, by decision of the Antiquities Authority, has the right to alienate any movable or immovable antiquity, whether public or private, if the antiquities are threatened with destruction or extinction and if the owner does not take specific actions. Expropriation is carried out in accordance with article 19 for movable property and article 26 for real estate. Thus, with a clear and precise legislative formulation, the state is given the right to alienate and preserve the most significant movable and immovable monuments from destruction.

Section seven of the law is devoted to museums (art. 40-42). Only local provincial museums are considered here, the central museums – the National Archaeological and National Ethnographic – are subject to the 1909 National Education Act.

Since archaeological societies created after the Liberation throughout the country were especially active at that time, the first museum collections were created for them. That is why in the Law of Antiquities they are all called archaeological museums. The text of the law clarifies that county councils, municipalities and cultural societies, as well as

schools and military institutions, have the right to create museums. To this end, they must meet the following requirements: have a set of rules or a charter that complies with the Antiquities Act, approve and approve these documents at the Ministry of Public Education, and place an exposition in rooms in which the exhibits will be safe and secure. The conditions for conducting an inventory of the collection must also be observed and a museum curator approved by the Minister of Education should be appointed. Each year, the museum must send a report to the ministry on its status and activities, as well as a list of new exhibits. The collections of these museums are formed from antiquities, which the national museums pass into temporary or final possession, from antiquities belonging to them in accordance with this law, from monuments received in the form of donations from individuals or acquired by their own means. For museums that do not meet the requirements of this law, the decision to close the Ministry of Education is decided by the Office of Antiquities (art. 42).

The categorical formulations of the Law on Antiquities contributed to the establishment of law and order in the field of discovery, preservation and demonstration of cultural monuments on Bulgarian lands. The export of antiquities from the state ceases, and all the monuments, regardless of their affiliation, are under strict control. The anticipated inventory of antiquities within one year of the entry into force of the law is aimed at making all movable and immovable monuments in the country known. Unfortunately, this intention was not fully realized due to the beginning of a long period of wars and destruction. Regardless of the historical turmoil that the country was facing, the existence of a serious law was one of the guarantees for the preservation of Bulgarian antiquities in the following years of wars.

In Bulgarian society after the Liberation, the Ministry of Public Education played a decisive role in the development of the entire cultural process. A number of outstanding personalities, intellectuals with European thinking, headed this institute and put into action a number of cultural institutions that were crucial for preserving the cultural and historical past. The first among these institutes was the National Library and Museum.

In general, the Bulgarian Renaissance is the period during which serious transformational processes take place in the field of social and personal evolution, both of different scale and the principle of separation of groups of people, and of individuals

in a changing society. This is the period when the restructuring of the group identity that existed until then takes place and new important accents are put into the creation of a generalized image of the Bulgarian. Of particular importance for determining the nature of identity is the fact that the Bulgarian community begins to interpret itself as a national community¹⁸.

Conclusions. Thus, Bulgaria has a stable legislative practice in the field of cultural heritage. The first Bulgarian law of 1890 that governs these issues can rightfully be considered one of the oldest in Europe. In 1911, the Law on Antiquities was published, which is much more directly related to cultural heritage. In 1969, the Law on Cultural Monuments and Museums was adopted in accordance with the spirit of the Venice Charter. However, despite the radical social changes that occurred in the period after 1989, this law remained almost unchanged until 2009, and, in the end, became inadequate.

The new "Law on Cultural Heritage", adopted in 2009, is undoubtedly important, because in some respects it compensates for the huge delay in this area. The positive side of the Law is the recognition of certain types of heritage that were not in the old law, such as intangible heritage. Also very important is the provision on the territorial arrangement for the protection of cultural heritage through protection zones and relevant regimes (mandatory protective borders and preservation orders). Thus, the urban development plan becomes an instrument not only of development, but also of conservation. This is an aspect of modern "integrated conservation", which includes maintaining as an integral part of the global sustainable development policy at various territorial levels. This ensures the interaction between the "Law on Cultural Heritage" and the "Law on the Arrangement of the Territory", and also regulates a new strategic tool – the "Management Plan"¹⁹.

At the same time, however, the Law is characterized by its inferiority in many other respects. Firstly, it does not fully reflect the modern evolution of cultural heritage – such concepts as "landscape" and "cultural tourism" do not exist in it. The man-

agement system continues to be highly centralized and concentrated in the Ministry of Culture. At the same time, the Law prescribes strict restrictions and does not include incentives, unlike European legislative practice. For example, in France, already in 1962, the Law of Malraud was adopted, according to which the protected sectors are given the opportunity to create associations of land owners, and all their expenses in connection with inherited property are deducted from their taxes. This leads to an unprecedented flowering of some previously abandoned areas in the central part of cities. Practice shows that providing incentives will pay off with interest. In addition, in Bulgarian legislation, authenticity is not approved as the main quality of cultural heritage; there are also no criteria for maintaining authenticity²⁰.

Professor of Architecture Todor Krestev, one of the most respected experts on ICOMOS and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Bulgaria, argues that the current trend in the legislation is to underestimate the conservation expertise.

In the sense of an expanded understanding of cultural heritage, the Balkan as a whole and the Bulgarian in particular are distinguished by their high cultural significance. It is extremely diverse in form and typology and has deep cultural stratification. For centuries, Bulgarian lands have always been at the crossroads of cultures, where various civilizations have left their mark. This is an exceptional feature of the Bulgarian landscape. In addition, the symbiosis between culture and nature, tangible and intangible heritage is also of great value. As a result, a unique value system has emerged, which today is largely hidden, but it is this that represents a powerful development potential.

On the other hand, more generally, the heritage in the Balkans has a distinct regional identity. A similar historical fate of the region contributed to the formation of similar regional cultural phenomena that differ in specific local modifications. For example, the phenomenon of folk architecture with its characteristic not only general regional properties, but also unique local manifestations. And also another phenomenon – Orthodox monasteries, which has a clearly expressed general regional characteristic for the Balkan region, but at the same time demonstrates the amazing dynamics of the emergence of unique national modifications. At this historical moment, a vivid culmination of the

¹⁸ Пытова Н. Фрагменты из публицистики Р. Жинзифова и полемика о болгарской национальной идентичности. Болгария и Россия (XVIII–XX век): взаимопознание. Отв. ред.: Г. Д. Гачев, Р. Дамянова. М.: Институт славяноведения РАН, 2010. С. 320.

¹⁹ Пешева П. Културно наследство за продан. Интервю с проф. арх. Тодор Кръстев. Семинар_БГ. Број 12. Култура за продан. 02 Май 2015.

²⁰ Пешева П. Културно наследство за продан. Интервю с проф. арх. Тодор Кръстев. Семинар_БГ. Број 12. Култура за продан. 02 Май 2015.

phenomenon appears in some places, then it subsides in order to arise in another place, under other historical, geographical and social conditions.

Bulgaria has an exceptional archaeological heritage, which has a complex structure, carries unique information and is of high cultural value. These are actually ruined objects, but they provide valuable evidence of the development and interaction of various civilizations on Bulgarian lands, the complex historical fate of the people who inhabited them in the past. This heritage is very vulnerable in modern conditions, both climatic and as a result of the existing construction load, especially in the centers of historical cities.

An important result of the evolution of views on cultural heritage in recent decades is the gradual expansion of its content. In addition to the tangible heritage proper, intangible has also become generally accepted: traditions and skills, crafts, legends, traditions, local cuisine and other values that have been passed down from generation to generation for centuries.

The process of forming a new idea of the value of the integral cultural dimension of the environment, its cultural memory as a set of valuable elements and relationships accumulated in time and space from different historical layers is ongoing. This totality is considered as a specific "spirit of the Place", as a carrier of its identity, and also represents the cultural context of each value that is part of it. In this sense, we can consider the landscape as a general cultural characteristic of the environment, which determines the image of the "Place" (a specific object, city, territory) and is important for its tourist attractiveness. For example, the value of the ancient Bulgarian city of Nessebar is determined not only by its medieval churches and examples of folk architecture, but also by the features of the urban historical landscape: the unique configuration of the European coast, cohesion of urban fabric, traditional directions of public spaces that have been formed from ancient times to the present day, the silhouette of a rocky peninsula with high banks, framing a built-up horizontal platform on which churches look like semantic city accents.

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