

Mihail Arnaudov and the Modern Project for Bulgarian Folkloristics

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(Summary)

The paper addresses the contributions and efforts of Mihail Arnaudov in establishing folkloristics as a separate branch of science in Bulgaria in the period between the two World Wars. The subjects of the analysis are the theoretical arguments of the Bulgarian scholar, published in his book “Очерци по българския фолклор” [Essays on Bulgarian folklore] (1934). In this book Arnaudov established the place of folkloristics among the other related sciences; he explored the theoretical challenges facing folkloristics and defined research approaches which constituted its methodological basis. In his work Mihail Arnaudov created a project for a branch of knowledge and academic discipline closely related to the European traditions in the field of humanitarian studies. The paper gives attention to the changes in that modern project after World War II. Arnaudov’s ideas are analyzed using the brief description in the introduction to the second edition of his work published in 1968.

Keywords: folkloristics, ethnography, methodology, ideology

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