

# Athens Institute

Working Paper No. 2025-2788-33

20 November 2025

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This paper should be cited as follows:

Todorova, Radostina & Stanimirova, Yuliana (2025) The Legacy of a Visionary: "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, D.Sc." Library – Source of Inspiration for the Arts and Humanities. Published by the Athens Institute: Working Paper No. 2025-2788-33, 20 November 2025. Pages 1-23

No.: 2025-2788-33

Date: 20 November 2025

DOI:

ISSN: 2241-2891

Previous Working Papers available at: [www.atiner.gr/papers.htm](http://www.atiner.gr/papers.htm)

*This series began in 2012 and was known as the Conference Paper Series until 2024. In 2025, the series was renamed and is now called the Working Paper Series.*

## **The Legacy of a Visionary: "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, D.Sc." Library – Source of Inspiration for the Arts and Humanities**

*By Radostina Todorova\* & Yuliana Stanimirova<sup>†</sup>*

*This article presents the concept and impact of "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library, New Bulgarian University (NBU). The library itself is a representation of the idea of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc, the founder of NBU, of an academic space shaping a well-balanced individual, promoting innovation and being open to society. In 2025, the 85th anniversary of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov's birth will be celebrated. He was a classical philosopher and a renowned professor of cultural history and ancient Greek literature at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov founded New Bulgarian University, officially recognized by a decision of the Grand National Assembly on September on 18, 1991. From 1991 to 1993, he served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Greece. In 1993, he was awarded the Order of the Phoenix (Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de Phénix, Grèce) for his mission as Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Greece. The article also deals with the multifunctional buildings that combine classical and modern elements, auditoriums for various events, and university history museums. Attention was paid to the presentation of library collections, the selection of publications, cataloging methods and their inclusion in the library catalog. The library aims to preserve cultural heritage, promote the academic community and be a memorial library, preserving the intellectual heritage of significant people.*

**Keywords:** Library; New Bulgarian University; Bogdan Bogdanov; multifunctionality; academic heritage.

„...the librarian is essentially bound not only to the special formal library work, but to science in the most serious sense of the word.”  
Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov

### **Introduction**

Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc is one of the most significant figures in the Bulgarian academic and cultural sphere – a classical philologist, translator, diplomat and founder of New Bulgarian University (NBU). His contribution encompasses not only the establishment of a modern higher education institution, but also active work in the fields of humanities, diplomacy, and the cultural heritage promotion.

As NBU Rector and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, he left a lasting mark on the development of the university, transforming it into a place of academic freedom, innovation, and interdisciplinary research.

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In addition to his academic work, Prof. Bogdanov, DSc is also known for his rich literary and scientific heritage, including translations of classical authors, monographs, and research in the field of ancient Greek literature and philosophy. His personal library, donated to NBU, is a unique collection of rare editions, multilingual works and authentic autographs, reflecting his intellectual interests and contribution to Bulgarian and world science.

The research aim of this article is to present the concept and achievements of the "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library at New Bulgarian University. The article examines the structure and content of the collections, including Prof. Bogdanov's personal library, archival materials, and academic collections, stored in a special hall "Reading room, collection, and archive of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc". In addition, it describes in detail the efforts of NBU staff to digitally present and promote this invaluable scientific and documentary heritage among researchers and the general public. Ultimately, the article focuses on the role of the library as a memorial library, embodying the founder's vision of an academic space that encourages innovation, shapes balanced personalities, and remains open to the public.

### **Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc, the founder of NBU**

Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc initiated the idea of New Bulgarian University as a continuation of the Society for a New Bulgarian University together with an organizing committee of scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs.

He was NBU Rector from 1991 to 1995, and later a long-term chairman of the Board of Trustees of NBU (14.03.1994 - 21.05.2011). After that, he was Honorary Chairman (President) of the university, and from June 4, 2016 until his death, he was Chairman of the Chairmanship Council of the Board of Trustees of NBU.

Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc is a classical philologist and university lecturer in ancient Greek literature and culture. Among his publications are the translations of Theophrastus's *The Characters*, Plato's *The Dialogues*, Longus' *Daphnis and Chloe*, Pseudo-Callisthenes' *Life of Alexander the Great*, Marcus Aurelius' *To Myself*, the books *From Homer to Euripides*, *Homeric Epic*, *Ancient Greek Literature*, *Orpheus and Ancient Mythology of the Balkans*, *Europe - Understood and Made, Separately and Together*, *The University - a Special World of Freedom, Past and Present*, the book *Modelos de realidad* published in Spain and *Reading and Its Functioning* published in Germany, the series *World Historical Heritage*, etc.<sup>1</sup>

Among his major achievements is the chairmanship of the Board of Directors of the Open Society Foundation. During his tenure he worked on modernizing libraries, integrating minority groups in society, human rights, provision of full access to the Internet for academic institutions, granting scholarships to Bulgarian students, and popularization of Bulgarian history, language and culture.

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<sup>1</sup>Rector. New Bulgarian University [online]. [accessed 30.06.2025]. Available at: <https://nbu.bg/bg/za-nbu/struktura-i-upravlenie/akademichen-syvet/rektor>

During the period 1991–1993, his activities as the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Greece contributed to overcoming the distrust between the two countries, accumulated during the Cold War.<sup>2</sup>

He was awarded the Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de Phenix, Greece, for his activities as ambassador; *Hristo G. Danov* National Award for his humanitarian studies; *Europe: Pass on* Award for European integration; and he was the Holder of the Order of Stara Planina, first degree the highest distinction in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Prof. Bogdanov as a member of the NBU Board of Trustees contributed to fulfilling the university's mission, developing creativity and entrepreneurial spirit at NBU, as well as to addressing his personal concern for developing the university library.

A text was discovered in his personal archive that sheds light on his thoughts on libraries and the importance of the librarian profession: "... No matter how much we search, we will not find librarians in the distant past - at least as independent figures. And the librarian profession itself accompanies other activities. But it is precisely in its connection with these other activities that something of its essence is revealed. And so, a librarian has to be sought in a library and near books. And since the book is the guardian of tradition, then the librarian, the guardian of the book, is ultimately a priest of the written word, a guardian of the written tradition."<sup>3</sup>.

He further adds: "... social development, which gradually led to the separation of the librarian profession from the home of book science – philology. But this common home indicates that the librarian is essentially bound not only to the special formal library work, but to science in the most serious sense of the word. So in this connection, to the nobility of those who serve and are served by the reader, the nobility of actual knowledge is added".<sup>4</sup>

The problem of reading and interacting with a text was also in the scope of his interests and he perceived the communication between an author and a reader in the following way: "If reading is an external act of solitude with a text, the question is whom a reader communicates with during this solitude. He communicates not with the text, but through the text for reading with a complex virtual other, with whom he exchanges his "self."<sup>5</sup>

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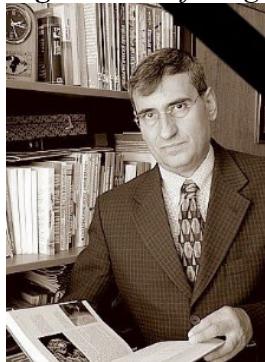
<sup>2</sup>Chairman of the Board of Trustees. New Bulgarian University [online]. [accessed 30.06.2025]. Available at: <https://nbu.bg/bg/za-nbu/struktura-i-upravlenie/nastoqtelstvo/predsedatel-na-nastoqtelstvoto>

<sup>3</sup>Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov. University Archive. <https://uniarchive.nbu.bg/bg/lichni-fondove/prof-bogdan-bogdanov>

<sup>4</sup>Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov. University Archive. <https://uniarchive.nbu.bg/bg/lichni-fondove/prof-bogdan-bogdanov>

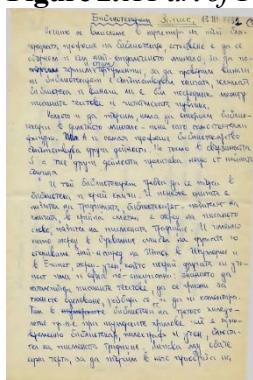
<sup>5</sup>Bogdanov, B. (2025). Reading, the Reader and Others. In: Reading in the Age of Media, Computers and the Internet: Proceedings of the International Conference in honour of Prof. Wolfgang Iser. Sofia: New Bulgarian University, 74-78.

**Figure 1. Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc**



Source: bogdanbogdanov.net

**Figure 2. A Part of Text was discovered in his Personal archive Titled "The Librarian"**



Source: Library New Bulgarian University

### **The New Building "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library**

On November 6, 2024, a new building was officially opened, the "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library, built at the initiative of the NBU Executive Director, Dr. Georgi Tekev, by decision of the NBU Board of Trustees. During the construction process ideas were contributed by the Honorary Prof. Veselin Metodiev, Chairman of the NBU Board of Trustees, and the Honorary Prof. Antoniy Slavinski, member of the NBU Senatorial Council.

"Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library has been intended to be a home for humanitarian knowledge, arts and literature.<sup>6</sup> It is a symbol of Prof. Bogdanov's ideas associated with New Bulgarian University being a space for building holistic, independent individuals possessing broad general knowledge about the world, a center for innovation and entrepreneurship in education, scientific research and creativity, a center that develops a university community and remains open to the outside world.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Library "Bogdan Bogdanov" – Home of Knowledge, Culture and Spirit (2025). University Journal. 39: 42-47.

<sup>7</sup>Library "Bogdan Bogdanov" – Home of Knowledge, Culture and Spirit (2025). University Journal. 39: 42-47.

On level 1 of the building there is the Reading room, collection and archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov", where several book collections are arranged, the first one being the personal library of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc, donated by Asst. Prof. Ivan Bogdanov. On the same level there is Auditorium 1, a hall hosting university seminars, conferences, educational, and scientific events.

Every visitor there can pick a preferred university published title in the field of humanities, social sciences, or the arts, a gift from New Bulgarian University. Level -1 contains a multifunctional space Auditorium 2, hosting conferences and educational practices, concerts, performances, and events. The NBU Museum is also located there.

The building is suffused with light and combines classical university elements with modern technologies. It is an architectural focal point of the campus, designed with attention to nature and energy efficiency, a space that reminds us that the mission of a university is not only to transmit knowledge, but also to connect thinking people, ready to share, inspire each other, and build a better society.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 3. The New Building "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library**



Source: Assoc. Prof. Angel Kocev, PhD

### **Reading Room, Collection and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov"**

As S. Cox emphasizes: "many librarians who manage special collections are grateful for the donations of items or collections that fall within their mission and collection scope. In turn, most donors find satisfaction in knowing that their gifts are housed in repositories, where they will be preserved and maintained by qualified staff and available to patrons for future years."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Library "Bogdan Bogdanov" – Home of Knowledge, Culture and Spirit (2025). University Journal. 39: 42-47.

<sup>9</sup>Cox, Steven (2004) Libraries and Donors: Maintaining the Status Quo. The Southeastern Librarian. 52(3), 34

The NBU library owns several special collections. Personal Libraries Collection is located in the "Prof. Ivanka Apostolova, DSc" Reading Room. The Personal Libraries Collection includes publications owned by prominent Bulgarian and foreign scholars, donated to NBU by them personally or their heirs.<sup>10</sup>

The New Bulgarian University Library already has been experienced in forming, identifying, managing and revitalizing personal libraries. The challenge to preserve and manage a scientific heritage of such high value for the history of Bulgarian and world science began back in 1995, with the first act of donation by the archaeologist of Sofia, Prof. Magdalina Stancheva, who personally donated her collection.

Acquiring extremely valuable publications and forming new subcollections, awaiting their young researchers, continues at present.

Thanks to the donation of Prof. Bogdanov's books by Asst. Prof. Ivan Bogdanov, the Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc Personal Library was formed, located in the Reading room, Collection and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov". It is the latest challenge facing the NBU library, due to its large size and the importance of this heritage to generations of Bulgarian intellectuals. The personal archive of Prof. Bogdanov, DSc belongs there as well.

A similar example, but on a larger scale, can be found in the history of the United States, where Mr. J. P. Morgan, in order to fully "fulfill his father's wish that wanted his books to be a constant stimulus for learning and research, donated his entire library, along with a suitable endowment, to the Board of Trustees in 1924, to be managed henceforth as a public institution dedicated to the advancement of science and education in society. The construction of an annex with exhibition and reading rooms and additional space for more staff marked the transition of the Morgan Library from a private collection to an institution serving the public interest."<sup>11</sup>

#### *Creation and Methodology of the Collections in the Reading Room, Collection and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov"*

Parallel to the construction of the new building, the library received the library documents used and stored by Professor Bogdan Bogdanov at NBU, amounting to over 900 units. Subsequently, Asst. Prof. Ivan Bogdanov, Prof. Bogdanov's heir, provided his personal library (about 2,500 copies), as well as his personal archive, as a donation.

In the newly established Reading Room with a library and archive, collections dedicated to Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov are to be situated. The methodology for the formation and organization of the collections in this new library space is determined by the following factual circumstances:

- Presence of a personal library and personal archive from a home environment;

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<sup>10</sup>Gimisheva, A. and R. Todorova (2024). The "Personal Libraries" Challenge: The Experience of the New Bulgarian University Library in Managing and Revitalizing Them. In: In the Footsteps of the Bulgarian Book – Descriptions, Finds, Bibliology: Collection of Scientific Communications from the Third National Colloquium, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the "Special Collections" Department, November 16, 2021. Plovdiv: Ivan Vazov National Library, 387-398.

<sup>11</sup>Boyce, George K. (1942). Morgan Library. South Atlantic Bulletin. 8(1).1+6-7

- Publications stored in Prof. Bogdanov's office at NBU;
- Books acquired or used by Prof. Bogdanov in the context of his scholarly and teaching activity;
- Titles in which Prof. Bogdanov had authorial responsibility (author, compiler, translator, scientific editor, etc.).

The methodological decision adopted was applied to form the "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov" Personal Library based on two sub-collections, including the library documents from his home and his office at NBU, as well as to establish additional collections with titles owned by the library, relevant to the Professor's scholarly and research interests and scientific heritage. As a result, in the Reading Room with Library and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov", the collections are structured as follows:

1. Personal Library of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc Collection;
2. Books from the Office of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc at NBU Collection;
3. Research Interests of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc Collection;
4. Scientific Heritage of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc Collection.

The first challenge the team faced was the explicit requirement of the donor that the library documents from Prof. Bogdanov's home be exhibited in exactly the same order they had been arranged in his home library. On the initiative of Dr Todorova, the Library Director, the books in the Professor's home were marked with numbered RFID tags in situ. This approach, although causing some delay, guaranteed the precise order of the books on their arrival at NBU. In this way, the donor's wish was observed, and the personal library was arranged according to its original arrangement in Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov's home.

The next challenge for the team turned out to be the collection from Prof. Bogdanov's office at NBU, which seemed a "collection within a collection." Thus, a decision was made to form a second independent collection, arranged immediately after the books from his home, but organized according to a different classification principle.

The third stage encompassed a refinement of the titles to be integrated into the specially created thematic collections "Research Interests of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" and "Scientific Heritage of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc". The positioning of the collections within the new library space was also a subject of detailed discussions.

**Figure 4.** *Reading Room, Collection, and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov"*  
Source: Library "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov" – Home of Knowledge, Culture and Spirit (2025). University Journal. 39: 42-47



**Figure 5.** *Reading Room, Collection, and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov"*  
Photograph: Assoc. Prof. Angel Kocev, PhD



*Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library*

The publications included in this sub-collection are books owned by both Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov himself and those inherited from his father Ivan Genchev Bogdanov. The collection includes 2,550 volumes of monographs, reference books, periodicals, albums, and brochures. According to Cox (2004) "the owner has invested time, money and intellectual effort in the development of the collection, which makes it valuable, beautiful and symbolic of his achievements."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Cox, Steven (2004) Libraries and Donors: Maintaining the Status Quo. The Southeastern Librarian. 52(3), 37

As Paustenbaugh (2002) claims "donors often have a stronger emotional attachment to the donation of objects (such as books), and this is another aspect of this specific donation"<sup>13</sup> that should be respected. At the request of the donor, they are arranged observing the manner and the sequence they used to be arranged in Prof. Bogdanov's home.

First in the sequence of publications are the books of Prof. Bogdanov's father, a prominent researcher of Bulgarian literature, archivist and bibliographer.

Most of them are fundamental source-study, reference and literary-historical works such as: *The Bulgarian Book through the Ages*, *Thirteen Centuries of Bulgarian Literature*, *Bulgarian Literary Periodicals*, *Dictionary of Bulgarian Pseudonyms*, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Literary Terms*, etc.

The collection includes a series of essays and novelized biographies of rulers, spiritual leaders and artists of national and world scale, including Khan Krum, Clement of Ohrid, Simeon the Great, Patriarch Evtimii, Nikola Piccolo, Boyan Magesnik, Vasily the Healer, Leonardo da Vinci, Alexander the Great, and Avicenna.

In these books, the specific biographies are presented in the context of the socio-cultural and political-economic life during the respective eras. Ivan Genchev Bogdanov is also one of the founders of the Union of Free Writers established in 1990.<sup>14</sup>

The collection comprises publications published during a wide time frame - from the end of the 19th century to the second decade of the 21st century. It includes scientific, popular science and fiction by Bulgarian and international authors.

The collection is multilingual and, in addition to Bulgarian, includes documents in German, French, English, Russian, Greek and several editions in Spanish and Italian.

The thematic area covers most of the humanities. The largest share is literature, including fiction, philosophy, classical philology, linguistics, psychology, aesthetics, politics, religion, theology, education, ethnology, ethnography, art, painting, graphic arts, history, archeology.

Some of the publications meet the criteria of the library for Rare and Valuable Books. The Rare and Valuable Publications Collection is another special collection owned by the Library of the New Bulgarian University. It includes documents with a unique layout, in rare languages, in limited editions, or bibliophile editions.

Based on the criteria established in the library, editions can be added to the collection in case they were published before 1920, recommended by a specialist in the relevant field as the only copy in the country, or bearing an exceptional value for the scientific community in Bulgaria.<sup>15</sup> For titles that have already been

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<sup>13</sup>Paustenbaugh, Jennifer (2002). Fundraising for Special Collections. *The Bottom Line*. 15(4). 186-89.

<sup>14</sup>Trifonova, Ts. Ivan Bogdanov. Dictionary of Bulgarian Literature after the Liberation. <https://dictionarylit-bg.eu/%D0%98%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BD-%D0%93%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%87%D0%B5%D0%B2-%D0%91%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2?sa=1>

<sup>15</sup>Gimisheva, A. and R. Todorova (2024). The "Personal Libraries" Challenge: The Experience of the New Bulgarian University Library in Managing and Revitalizing Them. In: In the Footsteps of the Bulgarian Book – Descriptions, Finds, Bibliology: Collection of Scientific Communications from

digitized, interactive links have been created in the library catalog to other digital libraries both domestically and abroad. The bibliographic descriptions also include a special note indicating the ownership of these digital objects.

In Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library there are such titles as well. For example, the encyclopedia *Brockhaus' Conversations-Lexikon allgemeine deutsche Real-Encyklopädie* in 18 volumes, published in Leipzig between 1882 and 1888 and the *Dictionnaire universel des sciences, des lettres et des arts*, published by Hachette & Cie, Paris in 1880.

Other valuable texts are the early editions of the works of the German classical philologist, philosopher, and writer Friedrich Nietzsche, published in Leipzig in 1906.

The Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov Collection includes several titles by Gerhard Hauptmann, a German playwright and novelist, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1912, published between 1896 and 1914: *College Crampton: Komoedie in 5 Akten* (Berlin: S. Fischer, 1896), *Einsame Menschen* (Berlin: S. Fischer, 1902.), *Fuhrmann Henschel: Schauspiel in fuenf Akten* (Berlin: S. Fischer, 1899), *Parsival* (Berlin: Ullstein, 1914); editions of poetry by Friedrich Schiller and Johann Wolfgang Goethe from the late 19th and early 20th centuries published in Germany; editions of poetry by Alphonse de Lamartine published in France in the same period; a complete Edition of William Shakespeare's Plays in 12 Volumes - *Shakspeares saemtliche dramatische Werke in zweelf Baenden : Bd. 1-12*; editions of Molière's comedies from the end of the 19th century; a well-preserved copy of *Βίβλιον δι ου δυνται τισ να κενταη τον ομηρον : Μεταφρασθεν εκ τον Ανγλικου και πλουτισθεν / Iφο Δ. I. Κομποθεκρα* (Athenesi : Sakellariou, 1861); *Hell* : [poem] / Dante Alighieri; translator [in verse] Konstantin Velichkow; illustration Gustave Dore (Sofia: magazine Artist, 1906).; speeches by Demosthenes in the edition *Demosthenis orationes Guilielmi Dindorfii* (Lipsiae : Sumptibus et typis b. g. teubneri , 1881); works of Plato *Verteidigungsrede des Sokrates. Ktiton: Fuer den Schulgebrauch/Platons; Erklaert von Christian Cron* (Leipzig: Druck und Verlag von B. G. Teubner, 1861); volumes I and II of *De rerum natura / T. Lucreti Cari; Red. und erkl. Friedrich Bockemueller* (Stade: b.i., 1873) published in 1873-1874; a work by Virgil in Latin *Opera: Studio singulari recognita/ Publii Virgilii Maronis*, published in 1806 in The Hague - the oldest edition in the collection.

The Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library Collection possesses a significant number of library documents with handwritten inscriptions, autographs, and dedications. They were discovered during bibliographic processing and identified de visu.

Their presence gives the collection a unique cultural, historical, and biographical value. "According to Brockhaus and Efron, "autographs of famous scientists, writers and poets constitute a real treasure for libraries...". Autographs

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the Third National Colloquium, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the "Special Collections" Department, November 16, 2021. Plovdiv: Ivan Vazov National Library, 387-398.

and inscriptions on books can serve as an additional source of information about the life of a certain author, about an era, a scientific or cultural phenomenon."<sup>16</sup>

In the context of the personality of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, they are evidence not only of personal relationships, but also of the scientific, cultural, and political processes taking place during the period of Bulgaria's transition from totalitarianism to democracy. The "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library Collection owns a book with a dedication from the great Bulgarian writer and playwright Yordan Radichkov (1929-2004), whose works were translated into 37 languages and published in 50 countries around the world. He was nominated twice for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The collection contains a very large part of the works of Blaga Dimitrova (1922-2003), a Bulgarian writer, poet, literary critic, and Vice President of Bulgaria in the period 1992-1993. All her books contain personal messages and autographs.

More titles bearing the author's signature are those by Tsvetan Todorov (1939-2019), a Bulgarian-French philosopher and literary critic, semiotician, literary theorist, historian of philosophical thought, and culturologist of Bulgarian origin. There are also numerous books with personal messages, gifted to Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov by prominent Bulgarian scientists and university professors, such as the books donated by Prof. Vera Gancheva (1943-2020), translator from Scandinavian languages, author of books, essays, and scientific works. Personal messages are also contained in the books gifted by the Greek poet and writer Kadio Kolymva (Καδιώ Κολύμβα) and the archaeologist Sotiris Kadas. Some of the documents in the collection feature dedications from official Greek institutions to Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, which he received during his diplomatic service in the Republic of Greece.

The meaning and functions of autographs and dedications are also considered by some authors as an indicator of the books' origin.<sup>17</sup> The books belonging to Ivan Genchev Bogdanov were stamped with a specially made seal showing the owner's name and inventory number, and some of them were signed, while the year of acquisition was written by hand. The automated library system EOSweb allows this to be noted in the bibliographic description of each library unit.

Before being arranged in the Reading Room, Collection and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov", the library documents are carefully cleaned, technically processed with RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) labels, and protective stickers. All documents are affixed with a blue sticker to visualize their belonging to the respective collection. The bibliographic descriptions of the types of documents are prepared according to the established standards for bibliographic description.

A special signature has been developed, which includes the abbreviation of the name of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov in Cyrillic – "ББ", UDC index (Universal Decimal

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<sup>16</sup>Kuts, O. Dedications and autographs on the rare stock books of the Central Scientific Library of the Irkutsk Scientific Center of SB RAS. Proceedings of SPSTL SB RAS. 2021 <https://doi.org/10.20913/2618-7575-2021-2-35-40>

<sup>17</sup>Marin, A. Provenance marks and inscriptions on the books of the De Franceschi family library. Libellarium: časopis za istraživanja u području informacijskih i srodnih znanosti. 2024 <https://doi.org/10.15291/libellarium.4520>

Classification), Roman numeral "I" for belonging to the Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library Collection, and a number in the order of arrangement, which is in accordance with the donor's wishes.

In the bibliographic processing of library documents, the capabilities of the EOS electronic library system supporting Z39.50 functionality for import and export of records are used. The international standard ANSI/NISO Z39.50 and ISO 23950 (shortly referred to as Z39.50) reduces duplication in bibliographic work and increases data quality.

This applies to the greatest extent when processing library documents in foreign or "old" languages. The NBU Library has signed agreements for data exchange and communication according to the Z39.50 standard with the Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Library, the Library and Information Center (LIC) of the Technical University-Sofia, the British Library and the Library of Congress.

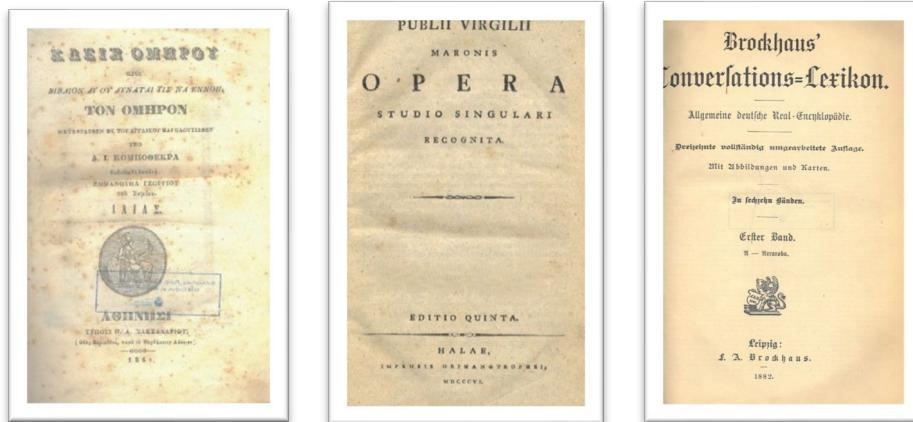
Especially for the needs of the bibliographic processing of the publications from the personal library of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov connections were established with the National Library of Greece, Biblioteca Nacional de Espana, and the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries.

The automated library system EOSweb enables additional content to be added to bibliographic records. At a later stage, cover images and full-text files of the contents of library documents will be digitized and included in the electronic catalog.

The automated library system EOS.web allows for additional content to be added to bibliographic records. In a subsequent phase, digitized cover images and tables of contents of library documents will be included in the electronic catalog. Processing the contents using a software product enables keyword searching throughout the entire document content. The addition of visual representation facilitates quick identification of titles. The inclusion of these elements in the electronic catalog is traditional for the NBU Library and our experience shows that it contributes to a wider accessibility of the collection, including users with disabilities.

All documents are freely accessible and can be used on site in the Reading Room, Collection, and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov". They can also be borrowed for home use in accordance with the NBU Library Statute and Rules for Use, with different types of readers having different terms of use.

**Figure 6.** Brockhaus' *Conversations-Lexikon allgemeine deutsche Real-Encyklopädie*, 1882-1888, **Figure 7.** Βιβλιον δι ου δυνται τισ να κενταη τον ομηρου: Μεταφρασθεν εκ του Αγγλικου και πλουτισθεν / Ιφο Δ. Ι. Κομποθεκρα, **Figure 8.** *Opera: Studio singulari recognita/ Publili Virgilii Maronis*

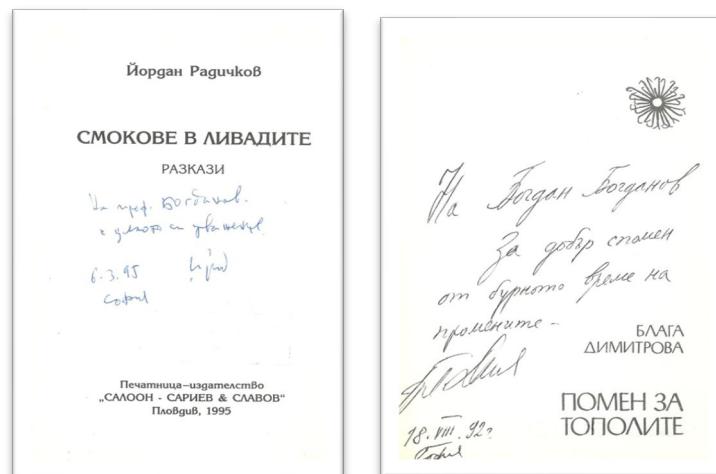


Source: Library New Bulgarian University

In conclusion, it can be said that Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library is a fund that will be of scientific interest to researchers, librarians, archivists, and bibliophiles.

Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Book Collection at NBU contains 979 volumes of library documents. These are books from Prof. Bogdanov's personal office and encompass the period after 1990, in which he founded NBU, and the period from 1995 until his death in 2016, when he was the NBU Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of New Bulgarian University.

**Figure 9.** *Dedication from the great Bulgarian writer and playwright Yordan Radichkov (1929-2004) – “To Prof. Bogdanov with all my respect”, **Figure 10.** *Dedication from Blaga Dimitrova (1922-2003), a Bulgarian writer, poet, literary critic and Vice President of Bulgaria in the period 1992-1993. – “To Bogdan Bogdanov, a good memory from the turbulent time of changes”**



Source: Library New Bulgarian University

This is a rich and diverse collection in terms of the type of documents, containing both books and audiovisual documents. About 20% of it is in various European languages, mainly English, French, German, Greek. The subject matter of the collection is also extremely diverse. It covers books from almost all fields of knowledge: science, semiotics, philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, politics, law, economics and regional studies, theory of education, natural sciences, architecture, art, linguistics, literary studies, fiction, history, and archeology. The characteristic feature of the library documents in this sub-collection is that the predominant part were gifts to Prof. Bogdanov with dedications from their authors. Some of the publications were by authors belonging to the intellectual elite of the country in the period from 1989 until 2016, as well as authors, teachers, and researchers associated with New Bulgarian University.

The books, with few exceptions, were published in more recent times compared to those in Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Personal Library, but the presence of autographs and dedications as a value indicator in over 90% of them significantly increases their value.

The signature is formed from the abbreviation of the name of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov - BB in Cyrillic and the Roman numeral II, which also includes an index according to UDC (Universal Decimal Classification) and an author's sign according to the "Three-digit author's tables".<sup>18</sup> The library documents in this sub-collection are also freely accessible in the Reading Room, Collection, and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov".

### **Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Research Interests Collection**

It is a thematically separate collection created specifically and includes editions from the existing library fund, consisting of 659 volumes of monographs, collections, encyclopedias, dictionaries, part of the existing library fund.

The collection comprises documents completed on the recommendation of Prof. Bogdanov and were used by him personally. It includes the *Loeb Classical Library* series with its 484 volumes, conceived by James Loeb with the idea of making the works of classical authors accessible to the general public through bilingual editions in Greek or Latin with translations into English.

The NBU library has the richest collection of editions from this series in Bulgaria. Among the editions from this series are the following: *Dialogus. Agricola. Germania* by Tacitus, published in 1914; 3rd reprint of the 1912 edition of *Vol.I.: Oedipus the king. Oedipus at colonus. Antigone* by Sophocles; *With an English translation* by F. Storr from 1924; 4th reprint of the 1912 edition of *Electra Orestes. Iphigeneia in Taurica. Andromache Cyclops: Vol.II* by Euripides, published in 1929.

Another significant series with its 147 volumes, purchased on the recommendation of Prof. B. Bogdanov is the *Collection des Universites de France*,

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<sup>18</sup>Dipchikova, A. (1984). Three-digit Author Tables, Combined and Harmonized with Two-digit Tables. Sofia: NBKM.

published by Les Belles Lettres. It includes editions of ancient Greek and Latin authors in bilingual format, presenting the original text and its French translation.

### **Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Research Interests Collection**

It includes important Greek and Latin texts with a reliable scholarly translation into German - the editions of *Tusculum-Schriften*. Of interest is the *Roemische geschichte of Ammianus Marcellinus* in 4 volumes by Akademie – Verlag – Berlin (Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft) (Ammianus Marcellinus was a 4th century Roman historian who wrote *Res Gestae* (Acts), often called *Roman History*). His work is one of the most important surviving Latin historical works, covering the period from 96 to 378 AD). Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Research Interests Collection also includes editions of the *Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* (CFHB), an international project that collects, edits and analyzes historical sources from the time of the Byzantine Empire (4th-15th centuries). CFHB was established in 1966 at the 13th International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Oxford and is led by the International Association for Byzantine Studies (AIEB). Its main goal is to provide modern critical editions of Byzantine authors, especially those whose works have not previously been edited or have been insufficiently treated. The texts are translated into English, French, and German. Among the titles included in the Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Research Interests Collection, the most valuable for literary scholars, historians, and researchers of Byzantine and modern Greek culture are *History of Roman literature* in 2 volumes and the Faber and Faber edition from 1981 of *Greek Poetry: From Homer to Seferis* by C. A. Trypanis.

The book traces the continuous literary tradition of Greek poetry - from classical epic, lyric and dramatic poetry, through the Alexandrian era, Byzantine literature, to modern Greek poetry. This study is important because it presents a comprehensive view of the Greek poetic tradition, analyzing styles, themes and influences during different periods.

The documents from this collection are also marked with a red label for visualization - a sign of them belonging to the "Single/last copy" collection. The signature is formed from the abbreviation of the name of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov – "ББ" in Cyrillic and the Roman numeral III.

### **Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Academic Legacy Collection**

It was specifically curated, including publications from the existing library fund, and aims to present the scientific legacy of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov.

It includes library documents with the authorial participation of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov as an author, compiler, translator, author of an introduction, preface, afterward, article, etc., scientific editor, honorary chairman of organizing committees of conferences, etc.

Publications in Prof. Bogdanov's honor are also part of the collection

The Professor is the author of over twenty monographs and over three hundred studies and articles in the field of ancient Greek literature, culture, philosophy, human relations and university education. During nearly 50 years of creative activity, he translated classical texts from ancient Greek (from Aeschylus' tragedies, through Plato's dialogues, to Epictetus' diatribes). A characteristic feature of this collection is that it is the only one that is planned to grow over time, as titles from the scientific heritage of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov which the library does not currently possess are specifically searched for and added.

The documents from this collection are marked with a red visualization label - a sign of belonging to the "Only/Last Copy" collection. The signature is formed by the abbreviation of the name of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov - ББ in Cyrillic and the Roman numeral IV.

### **Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov Archive**

In October 2019, the son of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, Ivan B. Bogdanov, donated documents from his father's archive to New Bulgarian University. The materials reveal the enormous and continuous efforts made by Prof. Bogdanov in his attempts to build models of reality, in "searching for perspectives for the present in the great texts of the ancient Greeks". Through them, his first steps in the scientific field can be traced, starting in his student years: his notes for a written state exam in 1963 on the topic "Roman Epic, Development and Representatives", a copy of his diploma thesis from the same year, the drafts of the assistant professor tenure in Greek and Latin competition at the Department of Classical Philology at Sofia University, won by him in the summer of 1969, the first reviews and short texts, written and published at the beginning of his academic career that began in the city of Veliko Tarnovo.

A large share of this archival heritage contains the preparatory materials, drafts, and manuscripts of the monographs of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov and some of his numerous publications in scientific periodicals. Next are the working materials in connection with the preparation of various introductory texts (prefaces, introductions). Here there are over 100 of his reviews, reports and evaluations of various publications and opinions from various academic contests he presided over.

His activity as a compiler and editor in publishing series or encyclopedic reference books can also be traced in this archive. Materials related to interviews in which Prof. Bogdanov participated were preserved. His translation activity is also present in his archival heritage – translations that are significant for Bulgarian culture (of Plato, Euripides, Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius), but also his less popular translated texts worth extra attention by specialists. In Prof. Bogdanov's manuscripts, a systematicity and unwavering consistency of his work can be clearly established – it is present everywhere.

The archive also contains materials by other authors who worked together with Prof. Bogdanov over the years on joint publishing projects, texts by authors who

were reviewed or guided by him, or those who gifted him their printed articles and studies, accompanied by dedications.<sup>19</sup>

Prof. Bogdanov's personal belongings, some of which are of particular historical value, are also part of his archival heritage, preserved in the Library "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc". In the vestibule of the building, there is a collection where the Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de Phenix Award, the Hristo G. Danov National Award in the field of Humanities and the highest distinction in the Republic of Bulgaria - Holder of the Stara Planina Order first degree, are exhibited.

One of his typewriters is also exhibited there, along with his library cards issued from the National Library "St. Cyril and Methodius" in Sofia and the NBU library as well as his favorite objects, including a Greek vase/Corinthian black-figure aryballos (small spherical Greek vase) and a replica of an exhibit from the Benaki Museum, Athena, which Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov often visited during his stays in Athens.

**Figure 11. Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov Archive**



Source: New Bulgarian University Library

### Promotion of the Academic Legacy

The Reading Room, Collection, and Archive "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov" is not only a repository of the books and archive of Prof. Bogdanov, but also a center for educational, cultural and research activities. According to Peter Jordan "Academic libraries still need to promote their services so that users are aware of the support they can receive. A systematic approach consisting of in-depth analysis is needed before decisions can be made about the best methods to use. User perception must be a priority in both the analysis and subsequent activities."<sup>20</sup>

The main challenges to making it attractive to users include organizing and providing access to documents in a way that facilitates their use, creating conditions for conducting scientific research and supporting scientists, and, last but not least,

<sup>19</sup>Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov. University Archive. <https://uniarchive.nbu.bg/bg/lichni-fondove/prof-bogdan-bogdanov>

<sup>20</sup>Jordan, P. (1998). The Academic Library and Its Users. Routledge, 141. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315241517>

organizing events and initiatives to promote scientific and documentary heritage. By using digitization and interactive electronic bibliography, we hope to achieve results that meet the information needs of today's users, because, as Pablo Avilés states "Digital libraries make it possible to build collections that underline the epistemological or historical coherence of elements physically separated by the hazards of history. These collections provide a response to problems that go beyond the field of work of librarians, archivists or historians."<sup>21</sup>

## **Electronic Bibliography**

Apart from conducting independent exhibitions and accompanying events organized jointly with the University Archives, the NBU Museum and various departments at NBU, each collection is also presented in the library catalog through a special functionality for creating a list of specific titles from the collection. This list is a kind of electronic bibliography, which, thanks to the capabilities of the information system used by the NBU library, can be rearranged according to the users' preferences: by author's name, title, year, subject, or publisher.

Of importance here is the fact that the list has a static hyperlink that can be used repeatedly. This type of presentation is applied to all individual collections in the "Personal Libraries" collection. Such a bibliography, with complete data for the entire "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov", D.Sc's personal library, is currently being built.

This approach supports users who are not forced to search for individual titles from the collection in the library catalog, but can very quickly and easily handle the verified and complete list created by the Library. In order to popularize this presentation of information, the NBU Library also maintains a special page on its website, where a short description and a hyperlink to the bibliography are to be placed.

## **Digitization**

The library is building up the Rare and Valuable Editions Digital Collection. Information about the included titles is maintained in an electronic bibliography, accessible from the library catalog, in the Selected Titles menu.

The editions from "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov", D.Sc's personal library, which are classified as rare and valuable, according to the rules adopted in the NBU Library are to be digitized and joined to this extremely valuable electronic array.

Among the first publications to be digitized is the ones published in Bulgaria, such as *Between Armistice and Peace: Conversations with a Friend* by Ivan Bogdanov, Sofia, published by Hr. G. Danov, 1946, *Essays on the History of Ancient Literatures: Greek Literature*/P. Kogan; Translated by Yordan Marinopolski. [Sofia. Life. 1914]; *Bacchae*: Tragedy/Euripides; Translated from ancient Greek [language] Gavril Katsarov. [Sofia. Al. Paskalev et al. 1919]; *Eumenides*: Tragedy

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<sup>21</sup>Russell, I.G., and, G. Layne-Worthey (Eds.) (2024). The Routledge Companion to Libraries, Archives, and the Digital Humanities. Routledge, 32. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003327738>

/ Aeschylus; Translated from ancient Greek [language] Al. Balabanov. [Sofia. Al. Paskalev et al. 1925]; Agamemnon: Tragedy / Aeschylus; Translated from ancient Greek [language] Al. Balabanov. [Sofia. Al. Paskalev et al. 1921].

Subsequently foreign editions meeting the criteria will also be digitized. The presentation of rare and valuable publications in digital format will allow the general public and the academic community to get acquainted with valuable works, masterpieces of Bulgarian and European book publishing in an extremely accessible way - through open access in the NBU Digital Library.

### **Interactive Bio-Bibliography**

The desire for innovation and more accessible information motivates the team to continue expanding its digital content and implementing interactive technologies that will facilitate readers' access to valuable bibliographic data.

The library already has been experienced in creating two similar fully interactive bio-bibliographies, for the presentation of which an entire subpage has been created on the library's website. The special thing is that the Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc's Academic Legacy Book Collection will be used as a basis, presenting publications he wrote, translated, compiled, etc.

In addition to the work on compiling an extremely complete interactive chronological and analytical bio-bibliography, work will also be done on acquiring some of the missing documents that have been found not to be held by the NBU Library.

After the end of each bibliographic description, an interactive link to a specific record in the NBU Library Catalog is placed.

In order to revitalize the scientific heritage, there is an idea for the articles from journals and periodicals that are part of the personal library of Prof. Bogdanov to be digitized and indexed in the Scientific Electronic Archive of NBU - an institutional repository with open access. The books will be presented with bibliographic descriptions, cover and pages of their contents. Through the transfer of metadata from the scientific archive, these scientific articles will be submitted to the Bulgarian Portal for Open Science, which plays the role of a national repository and is maintained by the National Center for Information and Documentation.

Also with the transfer of metadata, a profile of Prof. Bogdanov will be created in Google Science. The approach has already been tested and is unique in Bulgaria, as it combines not only an interactive bibliography, but also indexing and providing free access to publications. This makes the achievements of scientists discoverable and recognizable in the modern digital world of scientific communications. They are on the network and are accessible to everyone and whoever wishes can use them again and again, which will fully achieve the goal of revitalizing the scientific heritage of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov.

## Conclusion

Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov leaves behind not only an academic legacy, but also an inspiring example of incorporating knowledge into modern educational and cultural practices. His personal library, archive and scientific works, stored at NBU, represent an invaluable resource for researchers, librarians and all those interested in the humanities, classical philology and intellectual history of Bulgaria.

Through digitization, interactive bibliographies and exhibitions, the NBU Library manages to overcome the boundaries of traditional library work, providing access to rare editions and scientific works in a digital environment. This not only preserves the memory of Prof. Bogdanov, but also turns it into a "living" part of the academic world, whose ideas continue to inspire new generations.

The building of the "Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc" Library, combining classical elements with modern technologies, is a symbol of his vision - a place where knowledge is transmitted, works are analyzed and people connect in a common pursuit of enlightenment and progress.

Thus, the legacy of Prof. Bogdan Bogdanov, DSc remains relevant and significant, confirming the role of the university as a center of freedom, creativity and intellectual exchange. Because "the more an institutional form is able to attract the energy of those who participate in it, the more vital it is."<sup>22</sup>

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