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Ivan Dobrovski in Vienna

(Summary)

The research focuses on the 3-year stay of the Bulgarian journalist and teacher Ivan Dobrovski (1812-1896) in Vienna where he publishes “Mirozrenie” magazine (1850-1851). On the basis of unused so far materials from Bulgarian and foreign archives and literature it has been made an attempt to broaden our perspectives about the activities of the Bulgarian tradesmen and educated men in the Austrian capital and the Bulgarian presence in this European commercial and cultural center as a whole. Our attempt to approach these realities which date back to 150 years ago allows us to hold the view that for the Bulgarians as well as for the other Balkan people the most active role in the commercial and cultural life is played by the representatives of the high commercial bourgeoisie. The predominant part of the Bulgarians in Vienna, whom Ivan Dobrovski communicates with, are tradesmen, who participate in the more and more increasing exchange between Austria and Bulgaria. In his work as journalist Ivan Dobrovski leans namely on their material support. The trustees, who he can count on for the distribution of “Mirozrenie”, come out of their circles. The foreigners, who Dobrovski keeps in touch with and part of whom become contributors to “Mirozrenie”, are entirely representatives of the Slavic community in the Austrian empire and are also prominent representatives of the intellectual circles. This is mainly due to the important fact that the years 1849-1851, in which Dobrovski lives and works in Vienna, are years, during which many fundamental processes in the life of the Austrian empire take place. These processes bring to light the role of the Slavs and create, although for a while, conditions for building of

political projects, having as a center namely the western Slav community. Mainly representatives of the Czech and Slovak intellectuals, who Dobrovski keeps in touch with, participate actively in building these projects. The Greeks, who Dobrovski keeps in touch with, are mainly representatives of the commercial bourgeoisie and the clergy. Dobrovski has the opportunity to communicate with Slovenians, Croats, Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Greeks and Aromani in a unique with its multilingualism and tolerance cultural environment, which will undoubtedly leave deep signs in him. The facts presented complement with new hatches the characteristics of Vienna as an important center of fruitful communication of different people and cultures, of intersection of life paths, which have supported the complicated and painful process of maturity of the Balkan societies and modernization of their mentality.