

**Biomath Communications**www.biomathforum.org/biomath/index.php/conference**180 years from the birth of Nestor Markov
(1836–1916)¹**

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The true dimensions and achievements of a person can be understood only in the context of the époque that created the person. For Nestor Markov this is the time of the Bulgarian National Revival (1762–1878) and the first decades after the Liberation of Bulgaria from the rule of the Ottoman Empire (1878).

Nestor Markov was born in 1836 in the village of Krivo Pole. He completed his primary education in the village school and proceeded to study in high schools in Haskovo and Plovdiv. In the latter one he was a student of Joakim Gruev—one of the leading thinkers of the Revival movement.

Considering the contribution of Nestor Markov to the development of the cultural and scientific life in the revived Bulgarian nation and its key element Education, one cannot help wondering how it was possible for so much to be accomplished in one lifetime. He is indeed a typical representative of the Bulgarian Revival intellectuals—the social group, which created the conceptual basis and direction of national revival movements. Nestor Markov is the embodiment of one of the many examples of permanent liaison between schools and community cultural centers carried out by teachers. He started out as a teacher in his native village—Krivo Pole,

¹Abstract of the book: Dimov, N., T. Valchinov, Nestor Markov: From Krivo Pole up to Paris, Artprint, Haskovo, 2013.

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where he taught for two years, then he worked in Harmanli and Haskovo schools where he struggled with the “greekomans” (supporters of the Greek influence). He was slandered by them and accused in rebellion. He was arrested and taken to Plovdiv, where he was trialed and released, but nevertheless with no right to teach in Southern Bulgaria. He was appointed teacher in Pleven, where he performed radical changes in education, gave the beginning of the theatrical work, created community librarian center called “Consent”, opened a Municipal School for Girls as well as numerous community cultural centers in the Pleven region.

Nestor Markov is a graduate of the Bulgarian school. He is one of those forward-looking public figures who are well aware that only studying in foreign schools and universities will give the nation the necessary highly educated young people, generally speaking, looking at the wider horizons. He strongly supports the idea of Christo Danov for turning the Czech state to an educational center for Bulgarians and assisted several of his students in Pleven to go to Tabor City.

He has given his share to the development of the educational work in Rousse, to find himself in 1873 in the famous secondary school (known as Aprilov’s school) in Gabrovo. He passed through the fire of the April Uprising, arrested and thrown into Tarnovo prison, participated in the Liberation war as an interpreter at the headquarters of General Gurko², became a Chairman of Haskovo Committee “Unity”. In 1878 he convinced Petko Voivoda to come in Haskovo with his detachment and to defend the city and county for three months.

After the Liberation N. Markov actively participates in the creation of the new Bulgarian State—as prefect of Haskovo and Stara Zagora, then district governor in Ruse, Varna and Plovdiv. Nestor Markov leaves indelible traces of an honest and skilled administrator, who is not giving in to outside pressure and who defends and obeys the laws of the state. He was elected a member of the III Grand National Assembly (1886–1887) by the residents Harmanli region.

Nestor Markov deserves a worthy place in the ranks of the most promi-

²Field Marshal Count Iosif Vladimirovich Romeyko–Gurko

ment cultural figures in the country in the last decades of the Renaissance. Creative and active person, N. Markov is not satisfied with the direct teaching only. He left a rich literary heritage, which is not yet sufficiently well appreciated. It covers a total of 38 published titles: seven textbooks, published in 11 editions, two dictionaries (French-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-French) in five editions, nonfiction articles, memoirs, scientific papers, administrative and accounting publications and correspondences in the press. A crown of Markov's work on dictionaries is the two-volume pocket Bulgarian-French and French-Bulgarian Dictionary (volume I in 1912 and vol. II in 1915 both printed in Leipzig).

The creation of so many dictionaries by the same author within about two decades and particularly having in mind his age (at the time), today without exaggeration, we can say that this is a really great achievement, especially given the previous and tireless work of N. Markov as an educator, scholar, public figure and a creator of the new Bulgarian state.

The lexicographical work of N. Markov is a contribution to the Bulgarian national culture. Many generations in this country learn the language of the French civilization by the dictionaries of Nestor Markov.

That is why, when judging its entirety Enlightenment, social, and cultural activity statist revival of "Teacher Nestor" (as the citizens of Plevna fondly called him) and a dedicated builder of the newly liberated Bulgaria should not forget its dictionary file, which presents him as an erudite and gifted lexicographer, with proficient knowledge of Bulgarian and French.

The achievements of Nestor Markov and issued its French-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-French dictionaries does not go unnoticed by the French Republic. In 1903 the Special Minister of Education and the Arts of France, Nestor Markov was awarded the title of "Winner of the Order of Merit to education, literature and the arts", Paris, March 1, 1903.

Nestor Markov's whole life is devoted to service to the people—through the Ottoman rule as a real fighter for national liberation and beloved teacher of the younger generation, and after the liberation as a prominent scholar, honest and experienced administrator who worked selflessly for the success of the young Bulgarian state.