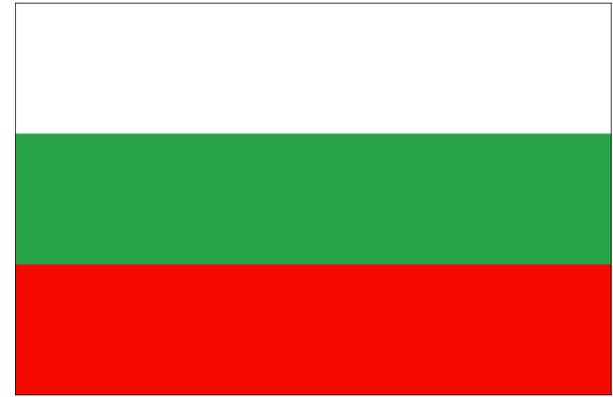


ALEKSANDAR STOYANOV
TEODOROV-BALAN

27 October 1859 – 12
February 1959

A fictive interview with a personality of partner's nationality that used to live and work in the Czech Republic





И.В.А.
КАРАСТОЯНОВЪ
ПРИДВОРНИ ФОТОГРАФЪ

София

A. S. TEODOROV-BALAN

He was a Bulgarian linguist, historian and bibliographer.

He was born in the village of Kubey in former Russian Empire, today Ukraine.

He came from Bessarabian Bulgarian family.

His brother was Bulgarian general Georgi Stoyanov Todorov, who fought in numerous wars such as First World War.

A. S. TEODOROV-BALAN

After he finished his studies at grammar school in Bolgrad in 1879, he moved to Prague to study Slavic Philology at a seminar.

He started as the only Bulgarian student in the seminar. 4 years later, Ljubomir Miletic, the chairman of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, joined him.

He also studied in Leipzig University for two years.

1884 he graduated in Slavistics from Charles University in Prague. His theses about the sound of Ъ in new Bulgarian was written in the Czech language.

A. S. TEODOROV-BALAN

When he finished his studies, he settled in Sofia.

He became a professor of Slavic ethnography, dialectology and history of the Bulgarian language in the Teachers training college – now - Sofia University.

In 1893 he was appointed as the head of Bulgarian and Slavic department.

On 29 January 1889, he was elected the first rector of Sofia University and later he was also reelected two more times. In the meantime he worked as the dean of the Faculty of History and Philosophy.

A. S. TEODOROV-BALAN

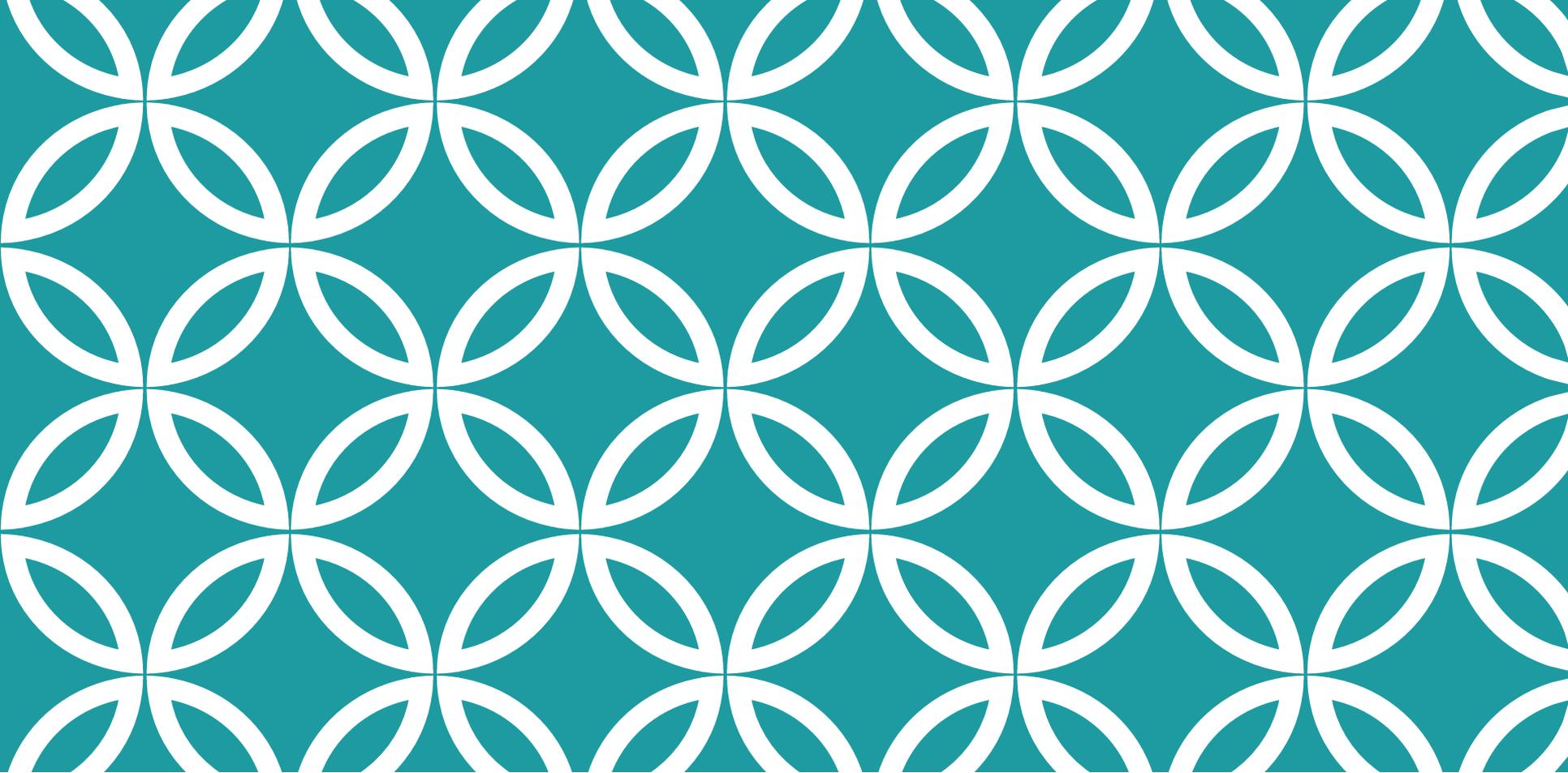
He was an active member and secretary of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Teodorov-Balan was one of the founders of tourist movement in Bulgaria. He served as a chairman of the Bulgarian Tourist Association and editor of the magazine „Bulgarian Tourist“.

He worked on Bulgarian grammar and phonology and he struggled against loanwords.

He published more than 860 scientific papers.

A. S. Teodorov-Balan died on 12 February 1959.



**THE FICTIVE INTERVIEW WITH
A. TEODOROV-BALAN**





1) How do you remember Bohemia ?

Very well. I graduated from Charles University.* As the first foreign student, I achieved doctor's degree in Linguistics. Originally, I had intended to get only the training to teach at the grammar school, but I was allowed to continue further studies in Prague and Leipzig. I often returned to Czechoslovakia.

*The university was divided into Czech and German part.



2) Which events and personalities have influenced you and in what way ?

Of course. There was very free environment in Prague and the development of the Czech language influenced me a lot in my future life. The Czech environment inspired me so much that I formulated the foundations of the modern Bulgarian in my paper and I finally became a university professor and later the Rector of the 1st Bulgarian University in Sofia.



3) Could you speak Czech?

Yes, I could speak quite well. I used to speak in the archaic Czech. I didn't need to help myself with Bulgarian. I have also written my theses in Czech .



4) Did you use to come back to Czech?

I used to come back to Prague regularly because I was in touch with Czech linguists and slavists. I also visited Prague in 1930 when, my friend, Jaroslav Vlček, who was the famous Czech historian, died. I had an emotional speach during his funeral, which was highly valued among present Czechs.



5) You are the creator of modern Bulgarian language. What does the language mean for you?

I see language as a tool of mind and the expression of the spirit. Language is an inseparable part of our culture and nation and we are bound to take care about our language.



6) Did you know Jonas Basanavičius?

No, I have never met him, but I knew about him and we had the same friends.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION