

# Digital Archive of Soldiers' Legacy of the Socialist Period

Iliya Valev

Regional Museum of History in Veliko Tarnovo  
ilia\_valev85@mail.bg

The study is devoted to the conscription during socialism in Bulgaria and presents the digitization of materials and the researches for the conscription and the ideas for creating a digital archive of soldiers' legacy of the socialist period.

The digitalized materials and all other results of the study of the ethno-cultural portrayal of Bulgarian conscription during socialism in [2] will be used for creating of digital archive of soldiers' legacy of the socialist period.

The content of the archive will include various materials of type: text, audio and photo – recordings of interviews, stories, memories, photos, letters, records, books, documents and etc stored in private collections and archives of former soldiers and their relatives, funds of military archives, libraries and museums. The objects at the digital archive will be used for ethnographic analysis and research professionals and create collections for soldiers' legacy.

The investigations for creating of model of digital archive are joint with experts from Institute of mathematics and informatics (IMI-BAS)<sup>1</sup>. For creating of digital archive will be used the digitized materials of the ethno-cultural researches of the author for the portrayal of Bulgarian conscription during socialism and the experience of the scientists from IMI-BAS [1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7].

Digital Archive of Soldiers' Legacy of the Socialist Period follows the ideas and structure of the book “Youth Passions, Men's Times” [2] and covers the regular, i.e. mandatory (conscription) military service, as well as other forms of community service work regulated by the law. The chronological boundaries of the survey include the period between 1949 and 1990. The object of the study is the military community of conscripted soldiers, nowadays mature men, who completed their service during the socialist period. The main aim of the study is to disclose specifics of the conscription from ethno-cultural point of view by examining the whole process of formation of soldier community. In other words, the study makes an attempt to create ethno-cultural portrayal of the conscription in the socialism.

The digital archive is structured according to the main ideas developed in the book “Youth Passions, Men's Times” and consist of three main parts.

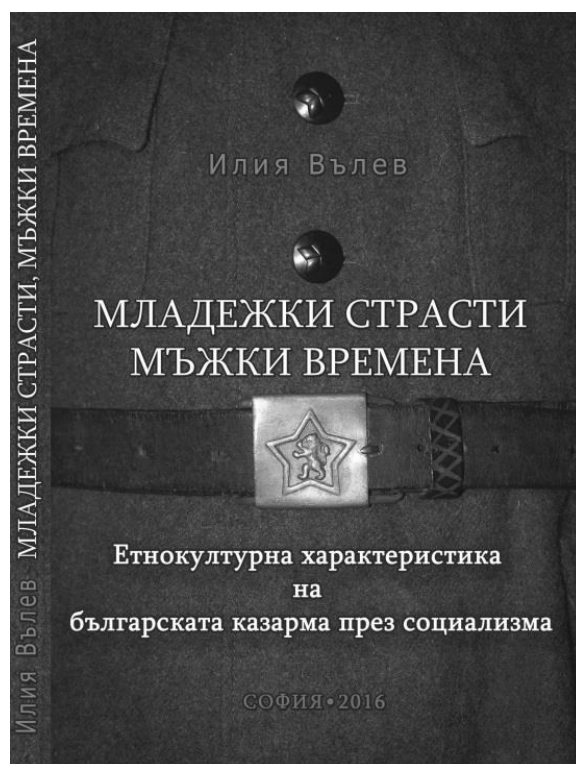
The part “The conscription – government policy and public perceptions” examines the national legislation system which regulates the conscription during the surveyed period and analyzes the attitude towards the conscription formed on the basis of the public perceptions of the Bulgarians.

---

<sup>1</sup> Partly funded by program BG08 “Cultural heritage and contemporary arts”, project “Digital cultural heritage “North+”: documentation, preservation and public access to cultural heritage in libraries, museums, archives and galleries in North and Central Bulgaria”.

The part “When the boy became a man – ethno-cultural transitional rituals” is associated with the conscription” seeks answer to the important question: when the boy really becomes man according to the traditional understanding of the Bulgarians in socialist period. It is discuss the role of military medical commissions; the custom ‘Dispatch of a soldier’ in our ritual system; soldier's oath as a military and family tradition; dismissal and welcoming back home of the soldier.

The part “Daily dimensions of soldier`s life during the conscription” focuses on everyday life and briefly comments on army`s statutes, which actually set and control the rules in military life, cultural and psychological adaptation of young people in their first days in the army, on problems connected with the process of building a team, as well as on some specific informal power relations within the team. Some manifestations of soldier informal culture are discussed as well.



**Fig. 1.** The book “YOUTH PASSIONS, MEN'S TIMES”

## References

1. Bogdanova G., Interdisciplinary aspects of research on digitization, preservation and presentation of cultural and historical heritage. Journal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 3, BAS, 2015, 67 – 75, ISSN:0007-3989

2. Valev, I. YOUTH PASSIONS, MEN'S TIMES /Ethno-cultural Portrayal of Bulgarian Conscript during Socialism./ Sofia: Military Publishing, 2016. ISBN 978-954-509-556-6 (Вълев, И. Младежки страсти, мъжки времена (етнокултурна характеристика на българската казарма през социализма). София: Военно издателство, 2016. ISBN 978-954-509-556-6).
3. Todorov T., G. Bogdanova, N. Noev. Database Design for a Cultural Artifact Repository. Encyclopedia of Information Systems and Technology, Vol. 1-2, Taylor&Francis, 2015,
4. Pavlov, R., D. Luchev. Tehnologichni aspekti i usluzi v tsifrovi biblioteki s kultur-no-istoricheski sadarzhание, Kompyutarni nauki i komunikatsii, Vol. 3, № 4, 2014, 63-73. (Павлов, Р., Д. Лучев. Технологични аспекти и услуги в цифрови библиотеки с културно-исторически съдържание, Компютърни науки и комуникации, Т. 3, № 4, 2014, 63-73.) ISSN 1314-7846
5. Luchev, D., R. Pavlov, D. Paneva-Marinova. Digitalnata kultura. Problemi i reshe-niya. V: Todorova, T., E. Kovacheva, R. Nikolov (sast.). ИКТ v bibliotechno-informatsionните науки, obrazovaniето i kulturnoto nasledstvo. Sbornik s nauchni dokladi i saobshteniya ot Natsionalna nauchna konferentsiya v chest na 70 godini ot sazdavaneto na YUNESKO i 65-ta godishnina na UniBIT, 29 may 2015 g. Sofiya, 2015, 68-88 (Лучев, Д., Р. Павлов, Д. Панева-Маринова. Дигиталната култура. Проблеми и решения. В: Тодорова, Т., Е. Ковачева, Р. Николов (съст.). ИКТ в библиотечно-информационните науки, образованието и културното наследство. Сборник с научни доклади и съобщения от Национална научна конференция в чест на 70 години от създаването на ЮНЕСКО и 65-та годишнина на УниБИТ, 29 май 2015 г. София, 2015, 68-88.) ISBN 978-619-185-164-5
6. Luchev, D., Paneva-Marinova, D., Goynov, M. (2013), Funktsionalna spetsifikatsiya na multimediyana tsifrova biblioteka za kulturno nasledstvo, V sbornik dokladi na Parva natsionalna tematichna shkola i borsa za nauchni idei v oblastta na Informatsi-onnite i komunikatsionni tehnologii, Ruse, 27-28 yuni, 2013, str. 73-78 (Лучев, Д., Панева-Маринова, Д., Гойнов, М. (2013), Функционална спецификация на мултимедийна цифрова библиотека за културно наследство, В сборник доклади на Първа национална тематична школа и борса за научни идеи в областта на Информационните и комуникационни технологии, Русе, 27-28 юни, 2013, стр. 73-78.) ISSN: 1314-9024.
7. Paneva-Marinova, D., M. Goynov, D. Luchev, R. Pavlov. Solution for content interoperability among digital libraries for orthodox artefacts and knowledge. In: CompSysTech '15. Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Computer Systems and Technologies. ACM New York, NY, USA, 2015, pp. 168-175. ISBN: 978-1-4503-3357-3. doi>10.1145/2812428.2812474, <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?doid=2812428.2812474>

