

DISCUSSION ON THE WOMEN'S CHARITY ASSOCIATION „MOTHER'S CARE“ IN THE
TOWN OF SLIVEN BEFORE THE LIBERATION

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Mothers' Commitment Society activities was examined for the time before Liberation (1877 - 1878) in the form of questions and answers. This form was selected, because the dialog (conversation, talk between two or more persons) during the time of Renaissance was very popular at the first phase of Bulgarian dramatic art. As a characteristic cultural and educational genre, the dialogues appeared in relation to the education activities. Such works were created with didactic and patriotic purposes by the Renaissance scribes like Petko R. Slaveikov, Ilia Bluskov, D. Voinikov, V. Popovich, J. Khadzi-Constantinov- Jinot, but the first author of dialogues was N. Bozveli, who revealed the severe fate of the nation and the duty of its sons. The characters communicate by direct speech, explaining educational and patriotic problems.

Further in the statement the information about the society was followed in the Renaissance periodical issues (since its foundation on January 7th, 1870 till the Liberation). In the struggle between the two characters - Supporter and Evil-wisher, a public opinion and position was formed and the alterations were underlined, related with the status and social functions of the women during the Age of Renaissance. The Society was a part of organized women movement at that time, when a number of women organizations were established also in other towns and villages by initiative of active and patriotic-minded Bulgarians. A number of initiative of the society were described regarding development and education of Bulgarian women, assisted by school, church, reading-house and maidenly school. The development of Sliven as a big commercial and industrial centre within the Turkish Empire and prosperity of the number of Sliven's families gave a possibility for support of the society, and their prominent members to lead it or to be members of its leadership. The charity was made also by beneficial compatriots outside the Bulgarian country. The society interrupted its activities during the April Revolt and Liberation War, renewing it in 1878. In less than 10 years Women Society consolidated itself as a center of women self-education, Renaissance education and culture.