

THE PHOTO COLLECTION OF YANKA KYURKCHIEVA (1929-2008) –EVIDENCE OF A UNIQUE CONTRIBU- TION TO THE NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ART

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Abstract

The artistic-documentary photo collection of Yanka Kyurkchieva, donated to the Regional Museum of History - Veliko Tarnovo, after the author's exhibition "Yanka Kyurkchieva, AFIAP" in 2008, is the object of the present study.

For the convenience of the matter in hand and in connection with the emphasis, placed on Kyurkchieva's role and functions in Bulgarian photography, the report is structured in three modules. The first module describes the most important biographical data relating to her scientific, pedagogical and creative activity. The second module presents the charity exhibition while the third one classifies the artistic-documentary photo collection by examining its various components according to certain features - chronological scope, content, specific features and genre. Within the focus of the presented photographs, which outline the development of Bulgarian photography during the 20th century, an attempt was made to establish Yanka Kyurkchieva's contribution to the national photographic art during this period.

Yanka Krumova Kyurkchieva (1929-2008) defend her own place in the national photographic memory. Her scientific, pedagogical and creative activities are of a remarkable nationwide importance. She received the titles: Artist of the International Federation of Photographic Art (1974), photographer-artist (1970), the order "Cyril and Methodius" - I grade (1981), "Teacher-specialist" of the International Federation of Photographic Art (1976). Her name has repeatedly been associated with innovations and initiatives in the field of photography. Undoubtedly, her auto-radiography will remain a model in the field of the theoretical application of photography. A bold step in the training of specialists with secondary education in the field of photography was made in Bulgaria with the opening of the "Photography" Department in the Polygraphic School and writing the first specialized textbooks. The National Association of Bulgarian Photographers "Yanka Kyurkchieva" was named after her as a well-deserved recognition of her overall activity and unique achievements.