

**JOINT HISTORY COMMISSION OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY
AND THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
CONSTANȚA, 27 JUNE 2025**

On 27 June 2025, a new edition of the Romanian-Bulgarian Joint History Commission took place in Constanța, organised by the Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy (ISSEE), the Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBSCT), and the Faculty of History and Political Science of Ovidius University of Constanța (FHPS), under the joint presidency of Roumiana Preshlenova, Director of the IBSCT, and Daniel Cain, Director of the ISSEE. This was the fourth bilateral commission of historians organised by the Faculty of History and Political Science, following the Romanian-French Joint History Commission (September 2008) and two editions of the Romanian-Russian Joint History Commission (the 9th in October 2004 and the 12th in September 2012). The Romanian-Bulgarian Joint History Commission academic carries out its activities alternately in the two countries, once every two years.

The major theme of the event was *Monarchy in the Balkans through the Centuries*, and researchers and university professors from both countries attended it. The Bulgarian delegation of the Joint Commission consisted of: Roumiana Preshlenova, who presented the paper *The People Against the Dual Monarchy in the Annexation Crisis (1908–1909)*; Ivailo Naidenov (Institute for Historical Studies – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences): *Svishtov Merchant Entrepreneurs and Their Networks Across Wallachia and Moldavia (Romania) during the 19th Century*; Alexandre Kostov (IBSCT), *Prince Alexander I and the Balkan Policy of Bulgaria (1879–1886)*; Ivaylo Nachev (IBSCT), *“Our Capital’s Improvement”: The Role of Prince Alexander I of Bulgaria in Building Sofia as a Capital City*; Dobrinka Parusheva (IBSCT), *Is It Safe to Mock the King: Ferdinand Caricaturized*; Mariyan Karagyozev (IBSCT), *The Treaty of Lausanne and the End of the Monarchy in Turkey in the Context of Modernization – Perceptions Then and Now*; Aneta Mihailova (IBSCT), *The Monarchist Idea in the Balkans After 1989*.

The Romanian delegation consisted of: Daniel Cain, who presented the paper *A Royal Visit: Charles I to Plevna (1902)*; Ovidiu Cristea (Nicolae Iorga Institute of History of the Romanian Academy), *The Medieval Monarchy in Moldavia and Wallachia*; Constantin Ardeleanu (ISSEE), *Royal Journeys along the Danube in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries*; Silvana Rachieru (Faculty of History, University of Bucharest), *Romanian Royal Family in Hoover Archives: (Hi)stories, Images, Collections – A Brief Inventory*; Daniel Citirigă (FHPS), *The Dynastic*

Marriage Project between Romania and Bulgaria in the Inter-war Period, Florin Anghel (FHPS), ***The Last Visit of a Bulgarian Sovereign in Romania: Tsar Boris III to Bucharest and Sinaia (January 1934), in Romanian Public Perception***, Metin Omer (ISSEE), ***From “Millet-i Hakime” to Romanian Citizens: The Muslim Community in Dobruja and the Relation with the Romanian Royal Family***, Emanuel Plopeanu (FHPS), ***Bulgaria after the Fall of the Monarchy. A Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate (1953)***.

As can be seen, the papers addressed different topics framed within the general concept of the conference and were followed by fruitful discussions. The Romanian and Bulgarian royal families, dynastic projects, bilateral visits, economic and social development during the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, the relationship between monarchy and society, the end of dynasties in the region, and the revival and fate of the monarchist idea in the post-communist period are only some of the themes that were discussed. The papers presented constitute the special section of the current issue of the journal *Historical Yearbook*.

The next meeting of the Joint History Commission of Historians from Romania and Bulgaria will take place in 2027; details regarding the timing and theme will be communicated in due course.