

**Newsletter
of the
Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia**

**Issue 3
November 1, 2006**



**Vancouver, Canada
www.bcsbc.ca**

Fall 2006

PRAISE FOR THE NATIONAL REVIVAL LEADERS

Every nation has its holidays. Smaller, bigger, holier and less noticeable – they all originate from the eternal national calendar and leave a small trace or open up a big road towards our human spirituality.

Thanksgiving
, Forgiveness Day,
Independence Day,
Labour Day, Mother
and Father's Day,
St. Valentine's,
Bright Historic
Holidays...



But it seems that there is no other nation which has a special day in the year to celebrate its Revival Leaders.

Bulgaria glorifies the enlightenment, science, the alphabet, the book in the Day of the First Slavic Teachers – the brothers Cyril and Methodius, May 24. November 1 is another bright date in the Bulgarian calendar, inspired by the nation's spontaneous movement towards and appeal for spirituality.

November 1 (in the old-style calendar, it was the Day of St. Ivan Rilski, the Wonder worker and heavenly guardian of Bulgaria) today is officially celebrated as the Day of the National Revival Leaders.

Although the roots of this holiday can be traced back to the first half of the last century, it has had a changing fate. Denounced and even forbidden after 1945, November 1 was revived at the beginning of the 20th C. as the day for a nation-wide glorification of the Revival Leaders.

The term "Revival Leader" is difficult to translate into another language. It means not only an "enlightener", but also a "fighter" who wakes up the nation from the deep sleep of slavery, from the darkness of ignorance, from the

reconciliation with the fate of slaves, from the smoldering away of the national consciousness. And if in the strict sense of the word, a “Revival Leader” personifies the heroic era of the Revival, nowadays it acquires an even deeper meaning, which includes “champion” of national rights and education, of the free expression of the human spirit, of the all-embracing upsurge of the family and motherland.

The darker the night, the brighter the stars in the sky. The harder to see in the darkness of slavery and lack of spirituality, the more radiantly shining at the historic horizon are the halos of these whom with love and admiration we call National Revival Leaders. According to a tradition with ancient roots in our culture, we consider that the awakening of the Bulgarian national consciousness coincides with the appearance of a small handwritten booklet which starts like this: “Slav Bulgarian History of the Bulgarian people, kings and saints, and all Bulgarian deeds and events”, and which was completed in the summer of 1762 in Sveta Gora.

Its creator, Paisii of the Hilendar Monastery, leaves the longest-lasting trace in our national self-determination. The live particle left from the thinker Paisii, his frank message for the “Bulgarian tribe” brought into 83 manuscript pages, wanders around the enslaved land, multiplies where it passes by, gives rise to wonderful legends, and brings back to life the rattle from the hooves of the horses, the whistle of the arrows of the heroes fighting for the glory of the Bulgarian name.

But the epoch-making work by Paisii has its predecessors in our spiritual life, which predetermined and gave an impetus to its appearance.

In the first half of the 16th C. the deeds of a number of famous representatives of the Sofia Literary School (Priest Peyo, Matei Gramatik , etc.) mark clear patriotic traits, and in 1569 the first Bulgarian printed book appears – the psalm-book printed out in Venice by the Sofia-native Yakov Traikov. The awakened impulse for literacy inspires active literary activities. The darkness of the Bulgarian spiritual wilderness slowly begins to be dispersed.

Sofronii Vrachanski is the second remarkable representative of the Bulgarian Revival, who after Paisii Hilendarski seeks to awaken the Bulgarian people from their century-long sleep. The teaching, social, and political activities of Stoiko Vladislavov (the secular name of Sofronii Vrachanski) are entirely



inspired by his endless love for his people and country. Lead by the desire to serve them better, bishop Sofronii, a church employee, works more for the people rather than for God, and puts more emphasis on

the book than on the divine issues. His autobiography, “Life and Tribulations of the Sinner Sofronii”, together with Paisii’s “Slav Bulgarian History”, are among the first original works of art of our Revival Literature.

There is a special place among the host of Revival leaders of the national spirit and consciousness for the apprentice weaver of frieze from the town of Kotel, who reaches the heights of the European scientific thought and remains forever connected to his people. **Petar Beron** and his “Fish Primer” have turned synonymous in our Bulgarian minds to public utility work. The scientist, Dr. Petar Beron, whose name is among the most outstanding European scientists of the 19th C., is national pride for our people. His scientific and philosophical heritage, collected in more than 25 volumes written in different languages, includes encyclopedic research in various scientific fields – philosophy, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, meteorology, philology, pedagogy. P. Beron dares to summarize the entire human knowledge into one system, and contributes to the development of science and culture, yet never in his life stops

to think about himself. He doesn't know what pride and self-love is. He only knows the desire to serve his people through the book.

Paisii, Sofronii, P. Beron – they are just the beginning. Their appeal would have remained just an appeal, if many new followers were not coming.

Vasil

Aprilov – the bookman, the creator of the new-style Bulgarian education who founded the Gabrovo school – “the cradle of the Bulgarian literature and of the Bulgarian spiritual Revival”.



Neofit Bozveli – the sower of education, the tireless champion of the rise of the Bulgarian people, of our national consciousness and self-determination, the fighter for the preservation of the Bulgarian language and for the recognition of the Bulgarian nation.

Neofit Rilski – the proverbially modest monk who put aside all forms of human thirst for fame, and who is related in our consciousness with the creation of the Bulgarian education, who devoted his entire life and all his talents to the raising of his people to the level of the most advanced nations.

The brothers Dimitar and Konstantin Miladinovi – the most eminent activists of the Bulgarian Revival in Macedonia, popular teachers, fighters against the Phanariot and Turkish yoke, talented poets, collectors of Bulgarian folklore, authors of the collection of “Bulgarian folk songs”, the most remarkable work of folk art of the time with intransient value today.

Konstantin Fotinov – who has made a permanent trace in the history of our culture, enlightenment, journalism, and literature, founder of the first Bulgarian periodical, the journal “Ljuboslovie” (love of the word).

Najden Gerov – the defender of the native word, the scientist who built an eternal monument of Bulgarian speech in his “Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language with interpretation of Bulgarian and Russian speech”, a poet, a teacher, a diplomat boundlessly devoted to his love for Bulgaria.

Ivan Bogorov – the doctor – the healer of the Bulgarian spirit, the educator with a broad range of expertise – linguist, historian, geographer, folklorist, economist, journalist, pioneer of the Bulgarian newspaper publishing.

In the first lines of the most distinguished national Revival leaders are the Bulgarian literary workers.

Dobri Chintulov – the poet of our heroic history, the patriot who made us feel proud to be Bulgarians, and never to bend down our heads to enslavers and oppressors.

P. R. Slaveikov – the symbol of Bulgaria, not of the enslaved and silent Bulgaria, but of Bulgaria conscious of its strength, a country which has bravely chosen the road to its own schooling system, independent church, and political freedom.

Dobri Voinikov – the founder of the original Bulgarian theatre and music, the courageous publicist, the inspired speaker and untiring pedagogue.

The historic grandeur of our home town, Rousse, is forever related to the names of the remarkable writers – national Revival leaders:

Ljuben Karavelov – the original Bulgarian thinker, publicist, author of Bulgarian, Serbian, and Russian literature, the revolutionary and the patriot.

Ivan Vazov – the patriarch of the Bulgarian literature, the poet who praised the melodious Bulgarian speech, the man passionately in love with the beauty of the Bulgarian land.

Zachari Stoyanov – the chronicler of the revolutionary fights of the Bulgarian people, the biographer of the extraordinary personalities in the Bulgarian history.

The great deed – the awakening and revival of the Bulgarian people and the beginning of the Bulgarian secular fine arts – immortalizes the names of **Zacharii Zograf, Stanislav Dospevski, Nikolai Pavlovich** and of the architect of the Bulgarian Renaissance – **Nikola Fichev**.

There is nothing greater than the self-sacrifice in the name of one's people. It places the fighters for national liberation among the most outstanding national Revival leaders. There is a long list of their names: **Georgi Mamarchev, Georgi Sava Rakovski, Panajot Hitov, Filip Totju, Hadji Dimitar, Stefan Karadja, Baba Tonka Obretenova, Angel Kanchev, Vasil Levski, Hristo Botev, Georgi Benkovski, Panajot Volov, Todor Kableskov, Raina Knjaginja, Bacho Kiro...**



It is hardly possible to list the names of all these Bulgarians who woke us up with fiery speech and self-sacrifice from our five-century long deadly sleep. That was at the time when we faced the danger of

being destroyed as a nation, of being turned into foreigners in our own land, when our melodious and beautiful Bulgarian language and all memories of us could have died away.

That is why, for us, their descendents today, the national Revival leaders, have not sunk into oblivion there in the bygone epochs. They are still present in our Bulgarian mentality and way of living. The admiration for these titans of spirituality and enlightenment lifts us up and makes us real Bulgarians “at the

ridge of the third millennium”. It makes us part of the multifaceted united Europe and of the boundless space of the Christian civilization.

In the homage of a nation towards its past are the roots of its strength in its present; and the past and the present together justify its will to have a future.

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Translated by Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D.
Editor in chief of the BCSBC Newsletter

First Day of School!

Every year on September 15 students and parents wake up with a special feeling of excitement: it's the first day of school! They put on their new clothes and best shoes, grab their backpacks with new notebooks, pens, rulers, and other school supplies, which they carefully put together over the summer, buy beautiful bouquets of flowers for the teachers, and head it off to school with exhilaration!

What will the new school year bring to them? What will the children learn? What will their learning accomplishments be? How are the old friends and classmates? What new friends will they meet? In which classroom will they study? Are there any new teachers? Many questions, to which the children are eager to find the answers that same day.



Children, parents, and teachers with bright eyes and smiling faces get together in the school yard. They greet each other, hug one another, give flowers to the teachers, and take pictures with photo cameras. This is one-of-a-kind euphoria of the new beginning and the expectation of something so traditional, yet so different and new every time around. It is a holiday! For as long as we can remember, the first school day for all Bulgarians has always been different than any other day in the year: more significant, more exhilarating, more enlightened.

Because nothing leaves more permanent traces in our lives than the knowledge we have acquired. And nothing can elevate us as much and makes us so proud of ourselves, our family and motherland, as the accomplishments in learning and science. Happy first day of school to all Bulgarians! Regardless of where they are and in which language they learn math, biology, physics, ... Knowledge will open up to you doors which look like they cannot be opened, and will show you unsuspected new horizons. Good luck to all students, and don't forget, as is the ancient Bulgarian custom, to kiss the hand of your teacher, who walks together with you every step of the way to the light and knowledge!

Ivelina K. Tchizmarova, Ph.D.
Editor in chief of the Newsletter of the Bulgarian-
Canadian Society of British Columbia



BBQ 2006

**The
Bulgarian-
Canadian
Society of
British
Columbia**



expresses heart-felt thanks

to Veneta Vulcheva and Stefan Ivanov, and their enthusiastic helpers for the wonderful organization of the society's traditional summer BBQ on August 20, 2006:



Thank you!

Antoaneta Eneva
Petko Ganachev
Vania Ganacheva
Lenny Ganacheva
Mincho Georgiev
Kamelia Hristova
Iavor Ivanov
Peter Kiriakov
Mihail Mitov
Svetlin Rangelov
Zdravka Slavenova
Petia Slavova
Alexander Spasov
Yuliana Stoyanova
Mihail Temelkov
Emil Tikvanski
Zdravko Vlasev
Eli Vlaseva



Thank you!



and everyone else
whose names we
didn't manage to
write down!



Varna Chamber Choir

invites

new members – all voices



The Varna Chamber Choir is a diverse chorus comprised of committed singers who are dedicated to excellence and expressiveness in the study and performance of a variety of choral works of all periods.

Rehearsals are held most Fridays 7:00-9:00 pm at Douglas College, New Westminster.

Last season we celebrated Mozart's birthday performing "Requiem" with Kamloops Symphony Orchestra.

The choir is developing constantly and is looking for new singers. Join us if you wish to develop your talent and meet people with your interests!

Our first rehearsal for the new season is on September 29, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

For more information contact Music Director Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov at (604)-294-1212, e-mail: nataliesong@hotmail.com

The Bulgarian Soccer society of Lower Mainland & the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia invite all who are addicted to the Big Game to join us at the “green carpet” and chase the “leather ball”...

Day: every Sunday from 10:30 a.m.

Place: Hume Park (or Sapperton)

As usual, there won't be disappointed or turned down enthusiasts.

For more information, call or e-mail:

Plamen Velikov cell: (604)-992-3503,
e-mail: plamvel@yahoo.com

Pepi Kiriakov cell: (604)-825-7565,
e-mail: info@peter-homes.com

Deyan Dyakov cell: (778)-238-2929,
e-mail: deyan.dyakov@gmail.com



The soccer team “Bulgarian Lions” 2003

Photo courtesy of Pepi Kiriakov

p.s. This is another opportunity to get away from ... Sunday household chores;)



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Seeks two volunteers to work as assistant editors of the BCSBC Newsletter. Candidates should have an excellent command of Bulgarian and English, and the necessary skills to edit and translate written texts in both languages for the BCSBC Newsletter.



The job will allow you to set your own working hours and will give you an opportunity to gather useful Canadian experience, enhance your resume, and receive valuable references for work. For information, write to ivelina@bcsbc.ca.

A stylized, 3D-effect letter 'N' in a vibrant green color with a dark blue shadow.A stylized, 3D-effect letter 'E' in a vibrant cyan color with a dark blue shadow.A stylized, 3D-effect letter 'W' in a vibrant cyan color with a dark blue shadow.

The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia now accepts paid announcements and classified ads for posting in the BCSBC Newsletter! For more information, follow the link below.

All BCSBC members are eligible for one free ad in one issue of the Newsletter per year, and get huge discounts for all other paid ads!

Don't miss this opportunity to make the information about your business and your skills reach more people!

Look here



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Would like to thank Senior Assistant Professor, Dr. Emilia Nedkova, Mihail Mitov, Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov, and the Bulgarian Soccer Society of Lower Mainland for their help in putting together this issue of the BCSBC Newsletter.

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