

**Time capsule message** dated Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915, composed on the occasion of the cornerstone laying for a building to house the *Samorazvitie* (Self-reliance) Community Reading Center (public library) founded in 1897 in the village of Zavet, District of Razgrad, Bulgaria. The message was sealed in a bottle and placed in the foundation. It was retrieved in 1955, when the building was demolished to clear the lot for the construction of a new building for the reading center. Facsimile published in: *Zavet and the Zavet County: a Historical Study*. Racho Mutafov and Vladimir Mutafov, Varna, 1989, p. 66-67; LCCN 90210211 (in Bulgarian).

Translation from the Bulgarian

*Pro memoria*

Today, Wednesday morning, February 4th, 1915, the corner stone was laid of the long-desired reading center with a theater hall. Even though we are living through uneasy days of uncertainty and surprises; even though we anticipate any day now mobilization and war, we despised the grim reality and are eagerly launching this - as modest as it is great - endeavor. Today the whole of Europe is drowning in blood; mankind's unreason has reached the level of disgusting insanity, human annihilation and devastation reign. And in these sad and rueful days we place the foundation stone; we open the spring of enlightenment and cry out: "War on war! Long live education and science<sup>1</sup> - the only forces capable of preventing bloodshed and drying up people's tears!"

- Headmaster: Nanyu Popov;
- Teachers: Boris Popov, S. Koleva,<sup>2</sup> St.<sup>3</sup> Petkova, St.<sup>4</sup> Popova, P.<sup>5</sup> Georgieva;
- Mayor: Christo Koev;
- Municipal secretary - tax registrar and Chairman of the Reading Center Board: Nanyu Ivanov;
- Deputy Mayor: Neno Philev;
- Healthcare Precinct Practitioner: Marin Kolev;
- Postmaster: Nedelcho Daskalov;
- Mail Clerk (illegible, initials P.K.);
- Chairman of the School Board: Velko Nedelchev Madzharov;
- Deputy-Chair of the Reading Center Board: Spas S. Stambolov;
- Citizens of Zavet:

- Ivan Popov,
- Ivan Dimitrov,
- Ivan Kyorchev,
- S. Stanev,
- Nikola Stoev,
- D. Donchev,
- Koyu K. Moutafov,
- Banko Marinov,
- Spas Dimitrov Donchev,
- Neno Varbanov Petrov,
- Nedelcho Ivanov Angelov,
- Yordan Bonev Uzunov;
- Master-bricklayer: Belcho Andreev;
- Construction crew: Mityu Kolev,
- Racho Kolev,
- Stanyu Mitev,
- Marin Mitev,
- Docho Stoev;

Guest-sponsors: (illegible, could be M. Arditi) from Razgrad, Marko (illegible, could be Melamed) from Rouse.

Упоминание

Днес, во сряда, на 4<sup>ти</sup> февруари 1915 година, събрахме се с целия местенителски кадар на дълго желаното читалищно училище с театрален салон. Мислехме и да отворим и трепетни дни на невъзможност и изненади; макар че в този ден се траншеи и сибиряци и война, все отворихме перлата отблъскаността и си направихме малко криво око, но все пак работим. Днес цяла Европа се облява в кръв; човешкото безумие достигна до отвратителна степен; измислено и погрешно човешко зрение. И в този ден отвори и перламът все повече разбулва картин; отворихме зора на предвещания, като отворихме: „Война на война“; да не бъде накрая, както всички се вярва да отворим издигнатостта и да отворим оазисът на хората!

Учители: H. Popov, S. Koleva, St. Petkova, St. Popova, P. Georgieva

Градоначалник: Christo Koev  
 Муниципален секретар и данъчен регистратор и председател на читалищния съвет: Nanyu Ivanov  
 Заместник-градоначалник: Neno Philev  
 Началник на здравния участък: Marin Kolev  
 Почтамт: Nedelcho Daskalov  
 Началник на пощата: P.K.  
 Председател на школата: Velko Nedelchev Madzharov  
 Заместник-председател на читалищния съвет: Spas S. Stambolov  
 Градоначалник: Ivan Popov, Ivan Dimitrov, Ivan Kyorchev, S. Stanev, Nikola Stoev, D. Donchev, Koyu K. Moutafov, Banko Marinov, Spas Dimitrov Donchev, Neno Varbanov Petrov, Nedelcho Ivanov Angelov, Yordan Bonev Uzunov  
 Главен каменар: Belcho Andreev  
 Строителски екип: Mityu Kolev, Racho Kolev, Stanyu Mitev, Marin Mitev, Docho Stoev  
 Гости-спонсори: M. Arditi, Marko Melamed

**Stamps.** 1<sup>st</sup> (round): Primary<sup>6</sup> public school – Zavet; 2<sup>nd</sup> (round): Zavet Municipality, District of Razgrad, Region of Rouse; 3<sup>rd</sup> (round): Telegraph and Post Station – Zavet; 4<sup>th</sup> (oval): Samorazvitie Reading Center – Zavet.

<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: the single Bulgarian word наука is translated here with two English words (education and science) to better convey its meaning within the specific context, place, and historical timeframe. <sup>2</sup> Could be Kaleva or Kyuleva. <sup>3,4</sup> Probably Stoyanka or Stefana. <sup>5</sup> Probably Petranka. <sup>6</sup> Grades 1÷8.