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Editorial Note: Where Science Meets Art

Rostislava Todorova

Department of Visual Arts,
“K. Preslavsky” University of Shumen, 115 Universitetska Str.,
9712, Shumen, Bulgaria

During the past three years, ACTA SCIENTIFICA NATURALIS has published four issues, each of them carrying a magnificent piece of art on its front cover. As ASN is focused exclusively on the field of natural sciences, certainly many of its readers have been wondering about the graphic layout of its covers. Using the change of the art piece’s type on the current issue’s cover, we have decided to reveal this little secret and to explain our choice to the audience.

The Editorial Board has always intended to emphasize on the importance of Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen not only as a modern scientific institution, but also as a worthy successor to the Pliska and Preslav Literary School, which spread the Cyrillic alphabet among the Bulgarian and all other Slavic people. Moreover, our University is located in Shumen – one of the most important cities during the Bulgarian National Revival Period where the tradition of the official celebration of St. St. Cyril and Methodius Equal to the Apostles deeds was created. For these reasons, from the very creation of ASN in 2014, it had been decided that its covers would promote not only current knowledge, but also works of significant artists from Shumen, who have left a deep trace in the national cultural heritage of Bulgaria.

Thus, here where science meets art, the first four covers presented to you the paintings “Spring II”, “Before the Mirror”, “Self-Portrait”, and “Portrait of a Girl” by the great painter Elena Karamihaylova from Shumen (1875 – 1961), who is also the patron of the Shumen Art Gallery. Remaining in the field of painting, current cover represents one of the most beautiful icons of St. St. Cyril and Methodius Equal to the Apostles, which has been unknown until recently, produced by the hand of Nikola Vasilev (1834 – 1918) – the most prominent zografer from Shumen.

Front Cover:

Artist: Nikola Vasilev (1834-1918)

“St. St. Cyril and Methodius Equal to the Apostles”, tempera/wood, 1896, 92/59 cm

By Courtesy of the Holy Ascension Church, Shumen