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Editorial Note: Where Science Meets Art (II)Rostislava Todorova,
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The Editorial Board of ACTA SCIENTIFICA NATURALIS 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, and the fifth one presented an icon of St. St. Cyril and Methodius Equal to the Apostles, produced by the hand of Nikola Vasilev (1834 – 1918) – the most prominent zoographer from Shumen. Remaining in the field of painting, current cover represents one of the most beautiful icons of the Nativity of Christ, written by the second great icon painter from Shumen - Vasil Hristov Bedelev (c. 1835 – c. 1874).

Little is known about this curious iconographer, because the memory about his personality and family history has faded away during the last century and a half. Current research on the work of the Shumen iconography school has revealed some intriguing details about Bedelev showing that he was little younger than his partner Nikola Vasilev and his family was linked through marriages with the family of Pancho Vladigerov – one of the most influential Bulgarian composers. Bedelev’s works are scattered throughout whole Northeastern Bulgaria, but the most magnificent ones are kept in several Orthodox temples in Shumen province. His artistic style is gentle, bright and colorful with pastoral compositions and vivid images, as one can see in the present Nativity icon.

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Front Cover:

Artist: Vasil Hristov Bedelev (c. 1835 – c. 1874)

“Nativity of Christ”, tempera/wood, 1896, 92/59 cm

By Courtesy of the Holy Ascension Church, Velino village, Shumen province

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