

**Acta Scientifica Naturalis**

Former Annual of Konstantin Preslavsky University – Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography  
Journal homepage: <http://www.shu.bg>

**Editorial Note: Where Science Meets Art (III)**

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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 female painter Elena Karamihaylova from Shumen (1875 – 1961), who is also the patron of the Shumen Art Gallery. The fifth and sixth covers presented the 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, and the icon of the Nativity of Christ, written by the second great icon painter from Shumen - Vasil Hristov Bedelev (c. 1835 – c. 1874). Remaining in the field of painting, current cover represents one of the best canvas of the greatest Bulgarian master of marine art - Alexander Mutafov (1879-1957).

Alexander Mutafov studied painting in the famous Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti in Turin (1899-1902) in the class of Prof. Giacomo Grosso. He also attended the Munich Academy of Art (1902-1909) in the class of Prof. Ludwig von Löfftz. After returning home, Mutafov quickly found his place among popular artists and in 1920 became an elected professor in the Bulgarian National Art Academy.

Alexander Mutafov had always had a very special attitude towards the sea – he saw it as a living being, he loved its constantly changing shapes, colors and moods. He was literally fall in love with the Black Sea and painted it this much that he was called “the father of all Bulgarian marine artists”. Mutafov was even a member of the Bulgarian National Marine Union (BNMS), established in 1920 by Bulgarian naval officers and illustrated all books and articles published by the Union. His work went through several periods which was influenced by different styles, but he never betrayed his favorite sea. After his early fascination with symbolism and impressionism, then with abstractionism, and described in his later years as a realist, Alexander Mutafov stayed dedicated entirely to marine art.

The painting on the present cover dates from the early symbolic period of the author. Its metaphorical subject painted dominantly in reddish nuances shows three Nereids seducing sailors on a ship in a lyrical, beautiful and gentle way, that immerses the spectator into the author's dream and his love to the sea. This piece of art could be read as a pictorial statement of the Alexander Mutafov's dearest wish: "I would like people to love and to understand the sea, which I paint all my life, and to be restless, strong and free as its element, like a great wave."

**Front Cover:**

Alexander Mutafov (1879-1957)

"Hymphs", oil/cardboard, c. 1906, 68/85 cm

By Courtesy of "Elena Karamihailova" Art Gallery, Shumen