

Reyna Lidgi With Colleagues



Here I am in the first row from right to left with colleagues at the Union of Bulgarian-Soviet Societies. The photo was taken in 1953. There is no stamp or inscription on the back.

The photo bears the spirit of the socialist times. On the right there is a poster-slogan that quotes a party document. Its author is the then prime minister of Bulgaria - Vulko Chervenkov. 'Let's fearlessly display the criticisms of the shortcomings in our work to the full and to merge with a strong hand all the obstacles on the road to this display by involving the working people on a massive scale.' V. Chervenkov.

I met accidentally an acquaintance of mine, a colleague so to say. And she asked me 'What are you doing?' 'I'm looking for a job.' 'They are looking for a translator at the Union of the Bulgarian-Soviet Societies, go there. Tell them I have sent you.' So I went there, introduced myself, showed them my excellent diploma. They asked me about what I could do and told me they would call me. And surprisingly, one morning, at seven o'clock, the doorbell rang. It was my colleague Todor Minchev with whom we had studied Russian Philology. I didn't know he was working at the union. They asked him about me and told him to invite me to start work. And, on 26th July 1951, I started work as a translator at the Union of Bulgarian-Soviet Societies. I worked in the Cultural Relations Department where we translated current materials on the activities of the Union, apart from that we prepared materials for exhibitions, we carried out contacts with creative unions and once a year we accompanied Soviet delegations that came for the month of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship. When I worked for the Union of Bulgarian-Soviet Societies, I would accompany different delegations from the socialist countries. Once I had to accompany a Polish delegation. I listened to them talking to each other and understood most of the things they said. I decided to attend two-year courses so that I could learn and use the Polish language.

I worked for the Union of Bulgarian-Soviet Societies from 26th July 1951 until 1st September 1955. In August or at the end of July 1955 the then prime minister Vulko Chervenkov took the decision to disband the Union of the Bulgarian-Soviet Societies because, in his opinion, the movement had

spread throughout Bulgaria and there was no need for a separate organization. And we were left to look for a job, wherever it was.

In August I entered a competition in the Bulgarian State Conservatory. I had found out about the competition from the 'Vecherni Novini' newspaper (Evening News). I decided to enter the competition without any experience with university teaching. The exam was rather complicated, there were twelve other applicants and as I was fluent with the language, came first in that competition and started work on 1st September 1955 as a teacher of Russian in the Conservatory. My work at the Conservatory made me delve into the musical terminology and I have never stopped expanding my knowledge in this sphere.