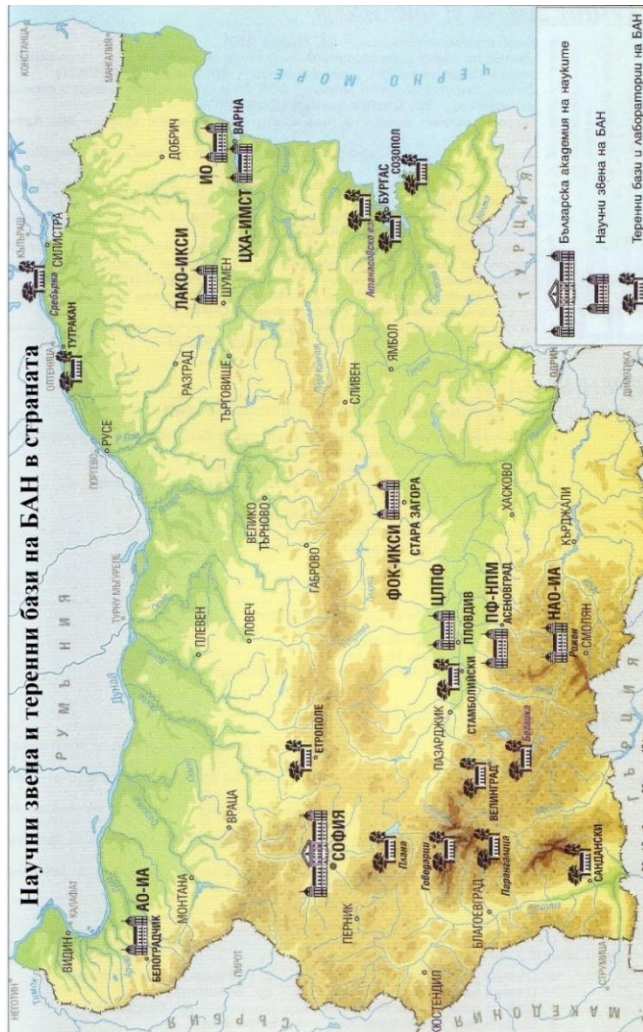


**EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS**

**Sofia, 15 September 2018**

*A visit to the building of the  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,  
1, 15 November Str., Sofia 1040*



**The building of BAS nowadays**



**The building of BAS at the time it housed the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



You can find more information about BAS on the  
official website of the Academy: [www.bas.bg](http://www.bas.bg)

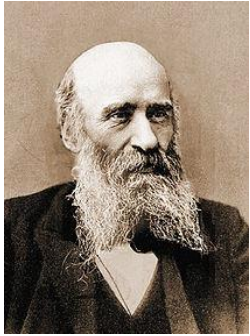


✓ The Bulgarian Learned Society (BLS, renamed to Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) in 1911) was established on 30.09/12.10.1869 in Braila, Romania, by the Bulgarian emigrants from Bucharest, Odessa, Galac, Braila, Kishinev and Constantinople, united by the idea of general enlightenment and science.

✓ BLS is the first Bulgarian institution established even before the Liberation of Bulgaria.

✓ Member, co-founder and first Chairman of BLS was Prof. Marin Drinov, a historian and philologist.

✓ He was one of the compilers of Turnovo Constitution, and it was his proposal Sofia to become the new capital of the restored Bulgarian state.



**Prof. Marin Drinov**

✓ After the Liberation of the Bulgarian state, the Society moved to Sofia and settled in the building of the State Council and later in that of the Ministry of Justice and private houses.

✓ The building of the Academy in Sofia was erected on a terrain of 4600 m<sup>2</sup> gifted to it by Sofia City Hall, in the immediate vicinity of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate.

✓ The Swiss architect Jacob Heinrich Meyer was assigned a non-government contract to make a project of the building of BLS/BAS in Sofia.



✓ The foundation stone was laid on 5 October 1880 while the first stage of its construction was completed in 1892.

✓ Under the investment control of architect Meyer, the two floors of the present corner part were built, without the big saloon, the library and the extension towards the Austrian Embassy.

✓ There is a built-in beaker with the Statutes of BLS/BAS in the foundation stone.

✓ Under Meyer projects' were also built the edifice of the Bulgarian National Bank in Sofia (1889), the pavilions of the First Bulgarian Fair in Plovdiv (1891), the Evksinovgrad castle close to Varna, the mausoleum of Prince Alexander Batenberg and others.

✓ The loan of BLS to different banks taken for the building of the edifice was settled in 1909 by a donation of 120 000 golden leva from Acad. Ivan Evstratiev Geshov, a long-standing chairman of BLS/BAS and Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religions of Bulgaria in the period 1911-1913.



**Acad. Ivan Geshov**

✓ Over different periods, the building of BAS housed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (until 1944) and during a fire in the Parliament, the building was granted for MP's sessions.

✓ The building was extended to the Austrian Embassy in the period 1925-1928 when, owing to the mortgaged apartments of 22 academicians, BAS received a loan from BNB which was later remitted.

✓ In 1950, the Academy already occupied the whole area of the present building.

✓ The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is the biggest research centre of Bulgaria with 42 scientific institutes in 9 areas of science, the main part of which are situated in Sofia, and the rest of them: in Plovdiv, Varna, Stara Zagora and other cities (please see the map).



