

“I AM SURE THERE WILL BE MANY ADVERSITIES BUT THERE  
IS NO LIFE WITHOUT THEM”: BULGARIAN NURSES AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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Abstract

Nurses were among the most mobile female professional groups in the time after the First World War. Some Bulgarian nurses (Nevena Sendova, Krustanka Pachedzhieva, Anka Lambreva, Slava Dimova) who had the opportunity to travel to North America, New Zealand and other parts of the world are presented through letters and travel descriptions. The aim is to reveal the emotions, attitudes, prejudices, fears of nurses-travelers, the ways they pointed out their qualities to overcome difficulties as well as how they presented themselves as “Bulgarian women”. Nurses contributed to the modern Bulgarian female travel culture (Reisekultur), to its establishment, to the creation of its ways of expression. They also made contribution to overcoming the female fears of uncertainty, to the ability to describe not only observations but also the own “inner landscape”, feelings and experience.