

# **INFORMATION ON THE SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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## ***I. Contributions related to the contents of the Habilitation thesis***

### ***Bulgaria, Ragusa (Dubrovnik) and the Balkans.***

#### ***Political, economic and diplomatic relations (end of 12<sup>th</sup> – 14 c.)***

1. The research thesis is based mainly on recently published original documents held by the Dubrovnik State Archive (DSA). Within two consecutive years (2016 and 2017), the author of this research work took part, as a member of a team comprising four other researches from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Sofia University “St. Kliment of Ohrid”, in the search, translation and publication of source documents that are directly related to the subject of the present study. Two collections of historical documents were printed as a result of the work undertaken in the DSA.
2. The introductory part of the research thesis contains an important terminological clarification relating broadly to the terms “Ragusan Commune” and “Ragusan Republic”. These two concepts are frequently mixed in Bulgarian historical literature and this leads to some confusion concerning the history of Ragusa in the period under examination.
3. The opening part of the research thesis contains an emphasis on a series of official documents that have direct bearing upon the development of the ties between Bulgaria and Ragusa in the medieval period. These historical records, presented together for the first time, gain an entirely new interpretation reflecting the dynamics of the relations between the two polities that were developing the broad Balkan context. Thus, the contacts between the Turnovo Tsardom and Ragusa are not examined in isolation but are revealed against the backdrop of the events in the European Southeast between the end of 12<sup>th</sup> and the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century.
4. The Dubrovnik charter of Tsar Ivan II Asen is presented and analysed in detail, while an emphasis is put on the problems that this historical document raises before researchers. In this context the author sets out his views on the subject under examination. Parallels are drawn between this historical document and various Cyrillic, Greek and Latin documents issued by the other ruling courts in the Balkan states, that testify to the initial settlement of the relations

of Ragusa with the Byzantine Empire, Serbia, Bosnia, Hum, the Nicean Empire and the Despotate of Epirus. In this way we can clearly see the similarities and differences characterising the process of asserting Ragusan economic interests in the Turnovo Tsardom and in the Balkans as a whole.

5. The second part of the publication deals with problems that haven't been examined at all in Bulgarian historiography. The question of the role and place of Ragusan consuls in the Balkan states, and in particular in the confines of Bulgaria is discussed in detail while parallels are drawn with similar Ragusan officials posted to the Italian city-states.

6. The presented research on the issue of the duties payable by the Ragusans and by other foreign merchants who ventured to the Balkans and the Bulgarian lands is also an original contribution. Some comparisons are made with the aim to illustrate the amounts paid by Ragusan merchants in preceding historical before the chronological frame examined in the text. At the same time the author makes some comparisons with the amounts of duties payable by the other foreign merchants (mainly Venetian and Genoese) who engaged in commercial activities in Bulgarian lands. Last but not least, the publication contains comparisons to some other customs fees payable by the representatives of the Adriatic republic in the Italian states. This comparative data gives some idea of the amounts payable by Ragusan merchants within the confines of the Bulgarian Tsardom during the last two decades of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

7. The closing part of the research thesis is focused on the available information on some historical personalities. The purpose of this chapter is to become a kind of a prosopography reflecting the fates of some Bulgarians who resided in Ragusa during the historical period under discussion. Again, the emphasis is on the available Ragusan records but in the process of developing the subject-matter some other written documents were clearly referenced, the aim being to characterise more fully the portrait of a given historical personality.

8. Concerning Nicolas the Bulgarian, the study outlines for the first time the role of this historical figure who took an important part in the development of the relations between Ragusa and the Ottoman Empire in the very end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

9. Annexed to the main text of the research thesis is a collection of all official documents from this historical period, held in part by the Dubrovnik State Archives, that touch upon the problem under consideration.

10. As a whole, the question of the history and development of the ties between Bulgaria and Ragusa in the medieval period hasn't been examined in detail in Bulgarian historical literature. Some subjects and issues have been discussed in isolated articles and studies, but we are still lacking a comprehensive study examining the proposed issues. The present research thesis is but a step in this direction and its ambition is to develop into a

comprehensive and thorough analysis of bilateral relations between the Second Bulgarian Tsardom and Ragusa between the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## ***II. Contributions related to the contents of the publications covering the subject-matter of the Habilitation thesis***

### **COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS**

1. А. НИКОЛОВ, В. ГЮЗЕЛЕВ, Е. КОСТОВА, П. ДАНОВА, С. ХИНКОВСКИ, *Дубровнишки документи за историята на България и българите през XIII – XV в.*, Т. I (1230 – 1403 г.), Сборник с извори. Издание, превод и коментар, София 2017, **ISBN 978-954-07-4297-7**.

2. А. НИКОЛОВ, В. ГЮЗЕЛЕВ, Е. КОСТОВА, П. ДАНОВА, С. ХИНКОВСКИ, *Дубровнишки документи за историята на България и българските земи през XIII – XV в.* Т. II (1407 – 1505 г.), Сборник с извори. Издание, превод и коментар, София 2018, **ISBN 978-954-07-4601-2**.

The two compilations of historical documents are the result of a research endeavour that was conducted over two years (2016 and 2017) by a team of researchers in the Dubrovnik State Archive (DAS). The two publications comprise original documents that are directly related to the subject of the development of the ties between Bulgaria and Ragusa during the Middle Ages. The question of the state of the source documents pertaining to the history of these relations stood until recently very acutely. The written testimonies of that historical period that were available to us were fragmentary and scant, scattered among the pages of isolated publications. With the publication of the two volumes of historical documents referred to above translated into the Bulgarian language researchers are faced with the prospect of bridging an important gap in Bulgarian historical literature. The contents of the two volumes are aimed at a broad audience. The collections of source documents are meant to be used by specialists, but also as teaching aids in the process of instruction in the higher education institutions on the subjects of mediaeval history, Latin paleography and archival studies.

The first volume contains the original texts, translations and commentaries of 65 documents covering the period between 1230 and 1403 that are kept in the Dubrovnik State Archive, as well as additional 9 documents from other archives touching upon the relations between Ragusa, the Byzantine Empire, Venice, the Kingdom of Naples, Hungary, etc. The volume includes reproductions in facsimile of the text of some of the documents published in the study; a linguistical

and terminological glossary; indexes of personal and geographical names; and introductory remarks.

The second volume comprises the text, translation and commentary of 115 documents covering the period between 1407 and 1505, kept in the Dubrovnik State Archive, as well as 9 additional documents kept in other archives and pertaining to the relations between the Ragusan republic, the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan states. The compilation contains: facsimile reproductions of some of the documents published in the study; a linguistic and terminological glossary; indexes of personal and geographical names; and introductory remarks.

The teamwork approach to the search for the source documents and their translation, commentary and publication allowed us to explore specifically the Cyrillic texts that are kept in the DAS. As a result, we were able to scrutinise a number of documents issued in the period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

## ARTICLES

1. Cultural-historical Contacts between Bulgaria and Ragusa in Mediaeval Times, In: International scientific conference Cultural corridor Via Adriatica – cultural tourism without boundaries, 15.10.2015 – 19.10.2015, Trogir, Croatia, 149–157, **ISBN 978-954-00-0008-4**

The study present different aspects – political, commercial, economic and cultural – of the mutual relations between the Bulgarian Tsardom and Ragusa (Dubrovnik) in the medieval period. The primary attention was payed to the cultural-historical links, which form an important part of the bilateral relations. In conclusion we should emphasize that the Bulgarian-Ragusan relations during the Medieval period have a long history based on one fundamental principle – that of partnership. This significant trait of the bilateral relations made it possible to continue the cooperation in the new environment brought about by the imposition of the Ottoman authority in the European Southeast.

2. Второто Българско царство и византийско-дубровнишкият договор от 1192 г., В: *Великите Асеневици. Сборник с Доклади от конференция, посветена на 830 години от въстанието на братята Петър и Асен, началото на Второто българско царство и обявяването на Търново за столица на България, и 780 години от легитимното възобновяване на Българската патриаршия*, Велико Търново 2016, 142–147. **ISBN: 9786191681761.**

The research was focused on one document – the treaty between Byzantine Empire and Dubrovnik from 1192. The document was issued in Constantinople by the Emperor Isaac II

Angelos (1185-1195) in June 1192 but the source is not preserved in original. As a general remark, we shall note that the contents of the document stress the hegemony of Constantinople over the internal and foreign policy of Ragusa. The same source sheds light on some issues concerning the past of Medieval Bulgaria. According to the provisions of the treaty, the imperial institution in Constantinople noted the existence of the Bulgarian Kingdom, but in practice refused to acknowledge Bulgaria's independence. The inclusion of Bulgarian territory in the treaty with Ragusa was a direct expression of the Byzantine attitude towards the newly re-established state of Bulgaria.

3. „БЪЛГАРИЯ” според някои дубровнишки документи, издадени през 80-те и 90-те години на XIV в. (предварителни бележки), В: *Средновековните Балкани като световен кръстопът: контакти и обмен, (Доклади от Българо-сръбска конференция, София, 1-2 окт. 2015 г.)*, В: *Studia Balcanica* 32, (2017), 143–153. **ISBN: 9789549280968.**

The main purpose of the study is to clarify the content of the term "Bulgaria" and the meaning of this name for official Dubrovnik's chancery in the 1380s and 1390s. It is important to elucidate here that the study was written before the recently published volume А. НИКОЛОВ, В. ГЮЗЕЛЕВ, Е. КОСТОВА, П. ДАНОВА, С. ХИНКОВСКИ, *Дубровнишки документи за историята на България и българите през XIII – XV в. Т. I (1230 – 1403 г.)*, Сборник с извори. Издание, превод и коментар, София 2017. This volume contains documents relating to the establishment and development of Bulgarian-Ragusian relations in the 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The article substantiates the conclusion that during the fixed period with the term "Bulgaria" Ragusians define the Tsardom of Vidin. The expose provides a clear argumentation for this hypothesis and makes parallels with some other foreign traders (mainly Venetians and Genoese) who also imposed their trade and economic interests in the Bulgarian lands.

4. Две клетвени грамоти – извор за развитието на българското царство в средата на XIII в. (политически, икономически, дипломатически и правни аспекти) В: *Studia iuridico–historica*, VI/6, (2017), 52–68. **ISSN1314-9296**

The study aims to investigate two charters sealed with oaths, issued in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and mutually exchanged between Dubrovnik and the Principality of Zachlunia. The presented sources reflect a wide palette of political, trade-economic, diplomatic and legal bilateral commitment. On this basis, we can point out that the cooperation between Turnovo and Ragusa as reflected in the abovementioned documents is widely applied in the diplomatic contacts established in the European Southeast in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

5. Мястото на България в два владетелски хрисовула, регламентиращи сръбско-дубровнишките отношения в средата на XIV в. – *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, 8 (2017), 219–234. **ISSN: 1314-2941**

The study is focusing on two gold-sealed charters (chrysobulls) issued from official Nemanja chancery. The documents present an extensive information about the relations between Dubrovnik (Ragusa) and mediaeval Serbia during the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. All important areas forming the bilateral relations are detailed in the text. Through these documents the Serbian crown intervened in the character and type of the trade between Turnovo and Ragusa and knowingly limited the import of certain goods. From the content of the two gold-sealed charters, we can conclude that they have a certain restrictive character related to the Tsardom of Turnovo. Thus, the Nemanja state became an intermediary, intervening in contacts between the Second Bulgarian Tsardom and Dubrovnik (Ragusa) during the period under review.

6. Българо-дубровнишки политически, икономически и дипломатически контакти в епохата на цар Михаил II Асен, В: *LAUDATOR TEMPORIS ACTI, Studia in memoriam Ioannis A. Božilov*, Sofia 2018 vol. I, 319–339. **ISBN 978-619-176-131-9**

The article was focused mainly on three written sources issued in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the administrative offices of different Balkan rulers, and kept in the State Archives of Dubrovnik. The documents mentioned in the study reflected the political, trade-economic and diplomatic connections existing in Europe and the Balkans during the 1250s. The series of bilateral agreements, presented in the statement puts the Serbian Kingdom in clear isolation by developing a broad coalition against Nemanjić dynasty. Specifically, concerning the development of the Bulgarian-Ragusan relations in the 1250s, it is necessary to conclude that the contacts between Turnovo and Ragusa underwent further development, resulting in the establishment of a political agreement between the two countries. In terms of economic relations – in the era of the Bulgarian ruler Michael II Asen the trade cooperation between Turnovo and Ragusa reached a new stage of its development. In general, it has to be concluded that the privileges and obligations of both parties are reciprocal.

7. България, Босна и Рагуза. Дубровнишкият модел в уреждането на двустранните взаимоотношения. – В: *Цар Иван Асен II (1218 – 1241), Сборник по случай 800-годишнината от неговото възшествие на българския престол*, Пловдив, 2019, 115 – 125, 285 – 286, **ISBN 9789548536301**.

The study aims to present in parallel the regulation of the bilateral relations between Ragusa (Dubrovnik) and the Second Bulgarian Tsardom and respectively between Bosnia and the Dalmatian Commune. We focus our attention on two historical sources from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century – to the 1230s. The review of the historic documents presented in this publication gives us grounds to conclude that from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century to the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Ragusan merchants consistently orientated their economic interests towards the interior of the Balkan Peninsula. It is important to underline that during the period in question Ragusa exhibited extraordinary flexibility in settling its relations with its neighbours.

8. Byzantium, Ragusa and Bulgaria according to the Treaty of 1192, В: *Au nord et au sud du Danube/North and South of the Danube. Dynamiques politiques, sociales et religieuses dans le passé /Political, Social and Religious Aspects of the Past*, Brăila 2019, 15–24. ISBN 978-606-654-334-7.

The study is focusing on the treaty between Byzantine Empire and Dubrovnik from 1192. The above-mentioned document is directly related to the bilateral contacts between the Byzantine Empire and Ragusa, but at the same time it presents a number of problems related to the history of the mediaeval Bulgarian state. The document under consideration has significant importance for the past of the mediaeval Bulgarian state. The treaty outlines, on one hand, the place of the Tsardom of Turnovo in the official policy of Constantinople. On the other hand, the source presents us an indirect evidence for the development of the economic relations between Turnovo and Ragusa during the period in question. The mention of Turnovo Tsardom in the bilateral treaty guaranteed Ragusa's commercial interests in the Bulgarian markets.

9. История и развитие на българо-сръбските отношения, отразени в някои Дубровнишки писмени извори (средата на XIII – средата на XIV в.), В: *Тематски зборник „Гласови и слике: облици комуникације насредњовековном Балкану (IV–XVI век)“*, Београд 2019 (под печат

The study tries to outline the relations between the Second Bulgarian Tsardom and mediaeval Serbia from the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> to the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The article focuses mainly on five official documents issued by the administrative offices of different Balkan rulers and kept in the State Archives of Dubrovnik. Although the sources are related to really short periods of time, they reveal some main tendencies in the development of the contacts between Turnovo and the state of the Nemanjić dynasty during the period under review. The written testimonies describe the confrontation between the two countries – the

contention in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century was quite overt and ended in an armed clash albeit of an episodic nature. The content of the sources shows that in the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the contradiction between the two countries was based on the economic and political interests of the Nemanjić dynasty. This fact imposes some trade restrictions against the Bulgarian Tsardom.

10. За историята на българо-дубровнишките търговско-икономически връзки през 80-те години на XIV в. (Към въпроса за митата). – В: *Сборник в чест на 60-годишнината на проф. П. Павлов*, В. Търново 2019, **(под печат)**.

The publication aims to outline the development of the Bulgarian-Ragusan trade and economic relations in the 1380s. The main focus of the study is on the issue of the amount of customs fees. From the content of the written sources it is evident that the representatives of Ragusa pay 3% duty, when they reach the Bulgarian lands. The written sources have become an evidence of a large trade exchange imposed by the Dalmatian Republic on the Balkan Peninsula, including in the Bulgarian lands. Based on the written sources we are making some statistics concerning the amount of the levy, paid by the foreign traders which were operating in the Bulgarian borders. By comparing it, it is generally concluded that in the 1380s the representatives of the Adriatic Republic paid higher fees than the other foreign merchants.

11. За ролята на дубровнишкия консулат, развиващ дейността си из българските земи и на Балканите през 80-те и 90-те години на XIV в. – *BHR*, 1 (2019), **(под печат)**.

The issues related to the status quo of the Ragusan Consuls, fulfilling their obligations in the region of the Balkan Peninsula and in particular - in the Bulgarian lands, are of a special research interest. The reason for this is that the activity of these employees actually regulates the relations between the Ragusans traders within the territories where they have direct economic interests. Our study is focused on this range of problems, and is based mainly on written evidence from the 1380s and 1390s. The historical sources outline the authorities but also the obligations of the Ragusan consuls and judges, appointed by Dubrovnik Republic in the region of European South-East. Specifically in the Balkans, the Ragusan Consulate originally appeared in the territory of Serbia and Bosnia, where the Adriatic servants came into view first. This is chronologically related to the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly a century later, the Grand Council (Veliko Vijeće) of the Adriatic Republic issued a document dated on 17 December 1387. With this written source the work of the Ragusan Consulate in the Balkans and in particular – in the Bulgarian lands, was officially regulated and confirmed.