

## SUMMARY OF PUBLICATIONS,

submitted for participation in the competition for Associate Professor in field 2.2. History and Archeology, for the “Medieval Balkans” section of the University of Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, announced in *Darzhaven vestnik*, issue 55 from 19.06.2020.

Candidate: Chief Assistant, Dr. Vladislav Ivanov

### Monograph:

**Appendix 01. The Knights of Saint John, the Crusades and the Balkans (XI – XIII century).** Sofia, Institute of Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology – BAS/ Paradigma, 2020, 504 pages; ISBN 978-619-7179-15-6; 978-954-326-426-1.

The monograph’s main topic constitutes a research on the history of the military Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and its connections with the crusade movement and the political history of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans in XI–XIII centuries. The chronological framework of the work covers the period from the appearance of the first Hospitallers in mid-11<sup>th</sup> century until the expulsion of their Order from the territories of Syria and Palestine in 1291. The research aims to contribute to the understanding of the history of the Knights of St. John as an integral part of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkan history in that age as well as for the study of some related aspects of the political history of the Crusades and the Eastern Orthodox Balkan states.

From structural point of view, the monograph should be divided into two major parts. The first part, which covers Chapters I – VII, focuses on the history of the Order of the Hospital and the Crusades in the Eastern Mediterranean from about 1050 to 1291. The second part covers Chapters VIII – XI and focuses on summarizing and analyzing the source evidence for the presence of the Knights of St. John in the Balkan Eastern Orthodox and Latin states, and the Kingdom of Hungary in XII–XIII century. The research in the second part is supplemented by discussion of certain related aspects of the crusade policy in the region. A special attention in the both parts is paid to the development of the relations between the Balkan Eastern Orthodox states, the Latin world and the Crusader states in the Balkans and the Middle East.

The first chapter, called “The Foundation of the Jerusalem Hospital”, deals with the historiography problems associated with the creation of the eponymous for the Order of St. John institution. The text contains a summary and analysis of the existing sources for the history of the Hospitallers before the First Crusade. Special attention is paid to the information for the connections between the newly founded Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem and Byzantium. The next chapter, “The First Crusade and Byzantium”, provides a brief overview of the reasons behind the organizing of the First Crusade. Based on an analysis of preserved sources and the most recent scientific research on the subject, the text outlines the importance of the events in Byzantium and the policy followed by the Emperor Alexius I Comnenus (1081–1118) to the setting off the First Crusade. The chapter ends with brief analysis of the contradictions emerging between the Byzantines and the crusaders’ leaders during the campaign .

The third chapter of the monograph, entitled “The Rise of the Hospitallers”, is focused on the history of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in the first decades of the twelfth century. The text analyzes the reasons and circumstances that led to the transformation of the personal of the Latin hospice in Jerusalem into an international religious order. In order to achieve this goal, the analysis attempts to shed light over the connections of the Order with the Papacy, the first crusaders and the Princes of the recently established Frankish states in the Holy Land. A special attention is paid to the earliest evidence of the militarization of the Order in the first half of XII century. The theme of the militarization of the future Knights of St. John continues in the fourth chapter, entitled “The Order of the Hospital and the Heyday of the Kingdom of Jerusalem.” Additional matter of interest here presents the geostrategic situation in the Levant and the political events in which the Order took part. The text examines in detail the Hospitallers’ connections with the Crusade movement between 1140 and 1170 and the participation of the Order’s military forces in the allied campaigns of Byzantium and the kings of Jerusalem against the Muslim states in Egypt and the Levant.

The fifth chapter, “The Knights of St. John and the War with Saladin”, summarizes the available evidence about the Order’s role in the epic conflict between the Outremer Franks (Poullains) and sultan Salah ad-Din (Saladin) in the 1170’s and 1180’s. The research employs plenty of narrative and documental sources and reaches to the conclusion that the war against Saladin was an important turning point in both the history of the holy wars between the Christianity and Islam and that of the Knights of St. John. The latter emerged from the long war with Saladin as a predominantly military organization, and the same trend continued to

dominate the Order's policy well into the next six centuries. The next Chapter VI, entitled "The Order of the Hospital in the Levant from the Third to the Seventh Crusades", covers the history of the Knights Hospitaller in the Levant from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid-13<sup>th</sup> centuries, focusing in detail on their participation in the Near East Crusades and the increasing political role of the Order in the Frankish states beyond the seas. The seventh chapter, "The Knights of St. John and the Fall of Outremer", is final for the first part of the monograph. The text summarizes the history of the Order of the Hospital and the Crusades in the Levant in the last decades of the Frankish states in Syria and Palestine. Special attention in Chapter VII is paid to the participation of the Knights of St. John in the war with the Mamluk Sultanate and the political relations between the Franks and the new regional power – the Mongols. The chapter finishes with an overview of the Order's role in the siege and conquest of the Kingdom of Jerusalem's last capital Acre in 1291.

The second part of the monograph contains a research on the presence of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in the South East Europe in XII–XIII centuries, and some of the related aspects of the political history of the region. It begins with the chapter VIII, "The Order of the Knights Hospitaller, the Crusades, and Byzantium in the Twelfth Century." The beginning of the chapter contains a brief analysis of the establishment of the Order in the Kingdom of Hungary in the twelfth century. The text continues with examination of the contacts between Byzantium and the Latin world in X–XII centuries and a detailed study of the available sources for the existence of the Constantinople Priory of the Knights Hospitaller and the relationship between the Order and Byzantium in the second half of the XII century. Chapter VIII concludes with an analysis of the deterioration of relations between the Latin world and Byzantium in the period after the so-called "Latin Massacre" in Constantinople until the Fourth Crusade (1182–1202).

The ninth chapter, "The Knights Hospitaller in the Latin Empire and Morea (1204–1294)" begins with a brief overview of the Fourth Crusade and the conquest of Byzantium. Then the text summarizes and analyzes the preserved source evidence for the presence of the Knights of St. John in the Latin Balkan states founded after the fall of Constantinople until the end of XIII century. The main research topics here are the arrival and establishment of the Knights Hospitaller in the Latin-occupied territories of the Balkans and Asia Minor, the relations between the Order and the first Latin emperors and the analysis of the preserved information about the fate of the Hospitaller's estates in Constantinople and Thessaly. The chapter ends

with an overview and analysis of the preserved sources for the presence of the Knights of St. John in the Principality of Achaea (Peloponnese) between 1209 and 1294.

The main topic researched in the tenth chapter, “The Balkan Eastern Orthodox States and the Crusades for the Rescue of the Latin Empire (1218–1240),” is the interdependence between the Crusades organized in support for the Latin empire and the political powers in the Balkans as well as the alleged participation of the Hospital of St. John in the described events. The text contains a detailed examination of the evidence for the war between the coalition of Eastern Orthodox Balkan states (the Bulgarian, Nicaean and Thessalonica empires) and the Latin Empire in the third decade of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. After that follows an analysis of the information about the Knights Hospitaller’s intervention in the war between the Latins and the Eastern Orthodox states, preserved in a letter of Pope Gregory IX (1227–1241), sent on March 13, 1238. Chapter X ends with an examination of the Crusade of the Emperor Baldwin II (1228–1273) in 1239–1240.

The last Chapter XI, called “The Order of the Knights Hospitaller, Kingdom of Hungary and the Balkans”, continues the analysis of the early Hospitallers’ history in the lands of the Hungarian Crown and the subsequent participation of the Order in the Hungarian policy directed towards the Eastern Orthodox Balkan states and the Latin Empire in the late twelfth and the first half of the thirteenth century. The text clarifies the role played by the Hungarian monarchs in the Crusades and their attempts to take advantage of the crusade movement for the Hungarian plans of expansion against the Balkan Orthodox states and the Cuman tribes north of the Danube. The Hospitallers’ relations with the Hungarian King András II (1205–1235) and their probable support for his candidature for Latin emperor of Constantinople between 1216 and 1218 are discussed in detail. The text continues with an overview of the Hungarian campaigns for the conquest and conversion of the Cuman pagans and the Eastern Orthodox population in the lands of present-day Romania and Moldova in the 1220’s and 1230’s, followed by detailed study of the Hospitallers’ involvement in the defense of the Kingdom of Hungary against the Mongol invasion in 1241–1242. The final part of Chapter XI contains an overview and analysis of the donation made by the Hungarian King Bella IV to the Knights Hospitaller in 1247. The donation included the whole of the so called Severin region or Terra de Zeurino, located near the Hungarian border with the Bulgarian Tsardom, and provided the Knights of St. John with the rights to conquer the lands to the east from the Olt River to the mouth of the Danube. The text examines the possible political goals of the donation and its relation with the Hungarian Balkan politics through analysis of the available

source information and clarification of the geostrategic situation in the lands bordering Severin in the 1240s and 1250s.

The monograph contains as appendices a total of twenty translations in Bulgarian language of chosen medieval sources about the history of the Knights Hospitaller and the Crusades in the XII and XIII centuries, arranged in chronological order and provided with scientific commentary. Nine of the appendices (numbers 2; 7; 9–11; 13–14; 17 and 19) present translations of the whole text of medieval letters, poems, bulls and donations, the rest being excerpts from various Latin and Near Eastern chronicles. All of the translations appeared for the first time in Bulgarian language, and some of them, such as the poem “Council for the Emperor” by Raimbaut de Vaqueiras (fl. 1180 – 1207) and the diploma of the Hungarian King Bela IV, issued on June 2, 1247, contain valuable information about Bulgarian medieval history.

Chapter in collective monograph:

**Appendix 02. The Military Order of the Knights Hospitaller and the Balkans (1204–1421).** – In: Al. Nikolov; Vl. Ivanov; N. Dyulgerov; S. Hinkovski; K. Yordanov (co-authors), *The Western Expansion in the Balkans: The Military Orders and Italian Maritime Republics, XII – XV century*. Sofia, University Publishing House “St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2018, 59–113, ISBN 978-954-07-5020-0.

The publication is part of a collective monograph devoted to the larger subject of the political expansion of the West European (or Latin) powers in the Balkans in the period XII–XV century. The presence of the military Order of the Knights Hospitaller in Southeastern Europe between 1204 and 1421 was an important element of the mentioned expansion, and the topic of the Order’s role as a local political force has so far not been fully researched in the world historiography. The material summarizes and analyzes a large number of source evidence and scientific publications.

The whole existence of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem was dedicated to the realization of what was considered the most important crusader objectives: the protection of the western pilgrims in their sacred travels to Jerusalem and the liberation of the Holy Land and other Christian territories from the power of the “infidels”. Plans to achieve these goals included not only the establishing of the Frankish political control over Jerusalem and the

surrounding areas, but also maintaining the security and the health of the pilgrims on the roads leading from the West Europe to the Holy Land. The latter objective constituted one of the most important reasons for the great geographical expansion of the Hospitallers' activity which included the Balkan lands as early as the twelfth century. The main land routes from the West, North and Central Europe to the Holy Land all passed through the Balkans, and the cabotage shipping, practiced in the Middle Ages, led to the inevitable need to use the ports in the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.

One of the consequences of the redirection of the Fourth Crusade to Byzantium and the founding of the so-called The Latin Empire of Romania was that the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem received relatively extensive feudal possessions, including lands, villages and fortresses, in the Balkans and Northeastern Asia Minor. For this reason, 1204, the year in which the Crusaders captured the Byzantine capital, was chosen as the starting chronological point for this research. The upper chronological border is 1421, the year in which both the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed I (1413–1421) and the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller, Fra Philibert de Naillac (1396–1421), died. The main reason for the latter choice was that in the first quarter of XV century the Knights of Rhodes changed their political and military strategy.

The publication contains a review of the sources and the scientific publications related to the history of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller and its participation in the Balkan politics in the period 1204–1421. The author concludes that the involvement of the Order in the regional affairs gradually increased since 1204 to reach its peak in the last quarter of the XIV and the first decade of the XV century. In that age the Balkan peninsula and the Aegean were transformed into the most important collision area between the Muslim Turks and the Western Christianity, but the original establishment of the Order of St. John in the Greek continental lands was due to the establishment of the Latin Kingdom of Thessalonica (1204–1224) and the so-called Principality of Achaia in the Peloponnese, which successfully resisted the Byzantine Reconquista until 1430. In the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Knights Hospitaller (already controlling the Dodecanese archipelago in Eastern Aegean Sea) tried to establish its rule over the Peloponnese peninsula and other parts of modern continental Greece. The article summarizes the evidence for the hypothesis that the main motivation force behind this “Greek project” were the joint plans of the Roman Papacy and the Order to turn the Greek lands into a kind of Christian fortress and a bridgehead for a future Crusade against the Ottoman Turks. In order to achieve that goal the Knights Hospitaller successfully

defended Corinth and other Greek fortresses from Ottoman attacks at the end of fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth century.

The article dwells as well on the naval actions of the Knights Hospitaller of Rhodes, which inflicted heavy blows on the forces of the Turkish Beyliks from the west coast of Asia Minor and the Ottoman Turks during the 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The text concludes that the actions of the Hospitaller's navy limited the Turkish attacks by sea and aided significantly the defense of the Aegean islands and the Christian Balkan ports. The article analyzes the participation of the Knights Hospitaller in anti-Ottoman actions, including the help that the Order provided to the Emperors John V and Manuel II Palaiologos in the civil war in Constantinople in 1390, the Crusade of the Hungarian King Sigismund and the Franks' aid to the Byzantine capital's defense during the long Ottoman siege between 1394 and 1402.

Publications in collections and scientific journals:

Articles and source translations with scientific commentary:

**Appendix 03. The Tatars and Bulgaria (XIII – XIV century).** – In: Iv. Popova, Al. Nikolov, N. Dyulgerov (eds.), *Mediaevalia. Quod Deus Vult, Essays in honor of Prof. Krassimira Gagova*. Sofia, 2013, 337–348, ISSN 1314-2755.

The article presents a brief overview of the relations between the Tatars from the two westernmost Uluses of the Mongol Empire – the Golden Horde and the Ilkhanate in the Near East and Iran, with the medieval Bulgarians in the period XIII–XIV century. The text contains a discussion of the thesis that the influence of the Ilkhanate of Iran on the Bulgarian history is undeservedly neglected in comparison with that of the Golden Horde. The article underlines Iranian Tatars' influence over Byzantium and the Turks and their role for the directing the Turkish expansion from Asia Minor to the Balkans.

**Appendix 04. The Military Monastic Orders in the Middle Ages,** *Almanah*, Issue 1, Year I, The Youth Historical Community, Sofia, 2015, 21–30, ISSN 2367-802X.

The article presents a brief overview of the history and the structures of the medieval military religious orders as the Knights Templar, Knights Hospitaller and Teutonic Knights. The text outlines the main reasons for the founding of the military orders, their prosperity and decline in the age between the XII and XVI centuries.

**Appendix 05. The Knights Hospitaller of Rhodes and their Involvement in the Balkan Political Affairs (1300–1421 AD).** – In: *“Bulgarian-German Scientific Cooperation: Past, Present and Future”, Proceedings of the Humboldt-Kolleg, Sofia, 26–28 November, 2015.* Sofia, 2016, 129–136, ISBN 978-619-00-0517-9.

After the establishment of their rule over the Aegean island of Rhodes and the Dodecanese in 1310, the Knights Hospitaller took an active part in some political events that largely decided the future fate of the Balkans. The article summarizes the participation of the Knights in the Aegean Crusades and the so-called “Holy Leagues” of the Latin powers, whose actions were directed against the Turkish advancement towards the Balkan countries at the other side of the Aegean Sea. The analysis concludes that the Knights’ actions presented a significant obstacle to the Turkish invasion and supported the struggle for survival of the Balkan Christian countries.

**Appendix 06. The Eurasian Nomads and the Balkans in the Early 1000’s.** – In: D. Borozan (ed.), *The 1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Jovan Vladimir. Proceedings from the Scientific Conference, October 21, 2016, MASA, Podgorica.* Podgorica, 2017, 65–75, ISBN 978-86-7215-399-6.

At the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Balkan Peninsula was scene of an epic conflict: the war between the First Bulgarian Tsardom and Byzantium, which lasted for several decades. The publication analyzes the preserved source information about the attempt of the last Bulgarian king John Vladislav (1015–1018) and his ally Krakra to reverse the course of the war by allying with the strong nomadic tribe of the Pechenegs, who ruled the territories north of the Danube. According to the sources, the most important role in this affair was played by the Bulgarian lord of Pernik, Krakra. The text summarizes the evidence in favor of the thesis that before his journey to the Pechenegs Krakra most probably seceded from the power of tsar John Vladislav, like another vassal Bulgarian lord, the Prince of Duklja John Vladimir. Only after being attacked by the Byzantine army did Krakra unite his forces with the Bulgarian tsar and tried to secure the support of the Pechenegs for their common cause. However, the negotiations with the Pechenegs were thwarted by the Byzantine diplomacy. Only a year later

the last independent Bulgarian lands were conquered by the army of the Byzantine Emperor Basil II the “Bulgarian Slayer”.

**Appendix 07. How was the Christian world divided? The beginning of the confrontation between the Orthodox East and the Catholic West.** – In: *Harmonia v razlichiyata*. Sofia, Academic Publishing House “Za bukвите – O pismeneh”, 2018, 63–70, ISSN 2367-7899.

The traditional historiography connects the ultimate separation of the Orthodox East and the Catholic West with the schism denounced in Constantinople on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 1054. However, the sources prove that the real confrontation between the two branches of the Christianity had not started at least until 1182, more than century later. The actual event which the author proposes for the symbolic „beginning of the confrontation between the Christian’s West and East” is the infamous, but largely forgotten today, „Latin Massacre” in Constantinople in April, 1182. The text employs several historical facts as support for the thesis that the „Latin Massacre” of 1182 played much more crucial role for the subsequent enmity between the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholics than the so called Great Schism of 1054.

**Appendix 08. The Saracen Pirates and the Holy War in the Western Mediterranean in the VIII – X century.** – In: *The Yearbook of the Faculty of History of VTU “St. Cyril and Methodius”, Research in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prof. Dr. Krassimira Mutafova*, Year II (XXXIV), XXXIV. Veliko Tarnovo, University Publishing House “St. St. Cyril and Methodius”, 2019, 72–82, ISSN 2603-3534.

In the VII–VIII centuries, the Arab Caliphate, a theocratic state founded by adherents of the recently appeared Muslim religion, conquered vast parts of the three continents of the Old World – Asia, Africa and Europe. The conquerors fought not only for political domination, but also for the spread and imposition of the new faith of the Prophet Muhammad. The holy war of the Muslims, called “Saracens” by the Europeans, soon stepped in the territories of Western Christianity. Between the eighth and tenth centuries, Saracen corsairs and pirates attacked on a wide front the European coastline of the Western Mediterranean. The struggle against the Saracen pirates was a severe test for survival for the Christian states in this part of the world. The Western Christians were actively supported by the Roman papacy in the fierce conflict with the “infidels”. For this reason, many of the actions against the Saracen pirates in this time can be considered as a kind of precursor to the later Crusade movement.

**Appendix 09. About the “unusual” Bulgarian name “Nergise” in Venetian documents from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century,** *Vremena*, 16, Scriptorium Association, 2019, 60–64, ISSN 2367-5527.

The article analyzes the source information about four Bulgarian slaves with a very unusual name for the Bulgarian anthroponymy: Nergise, preserved in Venetian documents dating from the end of XIV and the beginning of XV century. Comparing the scanty data in the mentioned documents and the available information for the slave trade in that age, the text recreates the most probable journey of the four Nergises from their native lands to the slave market in Candia. Of the four cases, the most detailed and interesting information contains the document drawn up in Candia on 12 October 1390. Based on the mentioned birthplace of the slave, the chronology and data of other sources, the text concludes that the Bulgarian Nergisa, mentioned in the last document, was captured during the Ottoman campaign against the lordship of the Albanian leader Gjin Bua Spata (1358–1399) in 1389 or 1390. The final part considers the hypothesis that the “strange” name Nergisa was introduced into the Bulgarian ethnic environment by the Turkic tribe of the Cumans which moved to the territory south of Danube in the XII–XIII century.

**Appendix 10. The Fate of the Templars and Hospitallers taken captive at the Battle of Hattin in 1187,** *Vremena*, 17, Scriptorium Association, 2019, 20–24, ISSN 2367-5527.

The article explores the information the medieval Persian chronicler Imad ad-Din al-Isfahani (1125–1201) gave about the fate of the military brethren of the Templars and the Hospitallers, taken into captivity after the famous battle of the Horns of Hattin on 3–4 July 1187, won by the army of the famous Sultan Salah ad-Din (Saladin). The text contains the first Bulgarian translation of the Imad ad-Din’s description of the massacre of the captives, ordered by Salah ad-Din, which a modern historian called “one of the ugliest passages in Arabic literature, unique in its gloating and brutality.” The article analyzes the motives for the unprecedented order of the sultan and reaches the conclusion that the brutal massacre of the defenseless captives and its enthusiastic description were intended to portray Salah ad-Din as an uncompromising fighter for the faith in order to raise his prestige in the Islamic world. The sultan’s behavior in this case is in conflict with his popular modern (and medieval) image of a noble and an honorable Muslim ruler who was merciful to those defeated by him and usually acted more humane than his Christian opponents.

**Appendix 11. The heresy of the Paterinians and Bulgarians in Matthew Paris's *Chronica Majora*.** – In: *Harmonia v razlichiyata*. Sofia, Academic Publishing House “Za bukвите – O pismeneh”, 2019, 235–241, ISSN 2367-7899.

The Benedictine monk Matthew Paris was one of the most productive English historians in the Middle Ages. His major work, the so called *Chronica majora*, preserved valuable information about the medieval dualist heresies of presumed Bulgarian origin in West Europe in the second quarter of 13<sup>th</sup> century. Some of this information was known and used by the Bulgarian scholars of the past but some was missed. The present work aims at more comprehensive use and analysis of the available data about the heresy of the Paterinians and Bulgarians in *Chronica majora*.

**Appendix 12. Three descriptions of the battle of Ankara, *Balkani*, 1/2012.** Institute of Balkan Studies with Center for Thracology, BAS – Sofia, 2012, 84–88, ISSN 1314-4103.

The publication contains Bulgarian translations of the descriptions left by three medieval chroniclers about the battle of Ankara in 1402, provided with a preface and scientific commentary. The first description is taken from the “History” of the Greek chronicler Doukas (c. 1400 – c. 1462), the second – from the “Life of Stefan Lazarevich” by the Bulgarian author Konstantin Kostenechki (c. 1380 – c. 1431). The third description belongs to the Greek chronicler Laonicus Chalcocondylus (1423 or 1430 – c. 1490) and is taken from his major ten volume work “Demonstrations of Histories”.

**Appendix 13. The Voyage of Ibn Battuta in Turkey in the 1330's (Part I), *Almanah* II/ 5,** Youth Historical Community, Sofia, 2016, 94–100, ISSN 2367-802X.

The publication contains a Bulgarian translation of the text by the Moroccan medieval traveler Mohammed ibn Battuta (1304–1368 / 69) describing his journey through the Turkish lands in Asia Minor around the end of the thirties of the XIV century. The translation follows the English edition of the famous Scottish Orientalist Sir Hamilton Alexander Roskin Gibb (1895–1971), published in 1984. The text is provided with an original preface and extensive scientific commentary.

**Appendix 14. The Voyage of Ibn Battuta in Turkey in the 1330's (Part II), *Almanah* III/ 6,** Youth Historical Community, Sofia, 2017, 65–78, ISSN 2367-802X.

The publication contains a Bulgarian translation of the text by the Moroccan medieval traveler Mohammed ibn Battuta (1304–1368 / 69) describing his journey through the Turkish lands in Asia Minor around the end of the thirties of the XIV century. The translation follows the English edition of the famous Scottish Orientalist Sir Hamilton Alexander Roskin Gibb (1895–1971), published in 1984. The text is provided with an original preface and extensive scientific commentary.

**Appendix 15. The Voyage of Ibn Battuta in Turkey in the 1330's (Part III), *Almanah* III/7, Youth Historical Community, Sofia, 2017, 67–74, ISSN 2367-802X.**

The publication contains a Bulgarian translation of the text by the Moroccan medieval traveler Mohammed ibn Battuta (1304–1368 / 69) describing his journey through the Turkish lands in Asia Minor around the end of the thirties of the XIV century. The translation follows the English edition of the famous Scottish Orientalist Sir Hamilton Alexander Roskin Gibb (1895–1971), published in 1984. The text is provided with an original preface and extensive scientific commentary.

Studies:

**Appendix 16. The Hospitaller Knights of Rhodes and the Crisis of the Balkan Christian States between the Battle of Nicopolis and the Peace Treaty of Gallipoli (1396–1403). –** In: Hr. Berov (ed.), *XVI Kyustendil Readings 2009 "The Crises in History"*, Faculty of History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Regional History Museum – Kyustendil, Sofia, 2011, 77–95, ISBN 978-954-8191-18-0.

The article examines the role the military Order of the Knights Hospitaller of Rhodes played for the Balkan Christian states in the critical period between the Battle of Nicopolis and the Peace Treaty of Gallipoli (1396–1403). After the complete defeat of the Crusade led by the Hungarian King Sigismund I of Luxembourg inflicted by the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I Yildirim in the battle of Nicopolis, the Christian Balkan states were more threatened than ever before by Turkish conquest. The text employs the preserved sources and the modern scientific works to show that during these seven years the Knights of Rhodes were the only Latin political force to wage constant anti–Ottoman action, bravely supporting the besieged by the Turks Constantinople and Morea.

**Appendix 17. Crusades and Latin military actions in the Levant, 1292–1334,** *Mediaevalia, Special Edition in memory of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Sotirov (1946–1998)*. Sofia, 2011, 215–254, ISSN 1314–2755.

The text summarizes the evidence about the Crusade-related military and political actions of the Latin (or Roman Catholic) forces in the Eastern Mediterranean between 1292 and 1334. The chronological boundaries of the study coincide with the final elimination of Latin states along the Syrian-Palestinian coast and the foundation of the first “Holy League” against the Turkish pirates in the Aegean Sea. The text discusses the chronology of the events and their role in the Crusade movement, which in that age began to change its main objectives from the re-conquest of Jerusalem and Palestine to resistance war against the Turkish offensive towards Europe. The study pays particular attention to the roles of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller and the Byzantine Empire in the described events, as well as to the attempts for concluding a Christian alliance to deter the Turkish attacks against the Balkan coasts.

**Appendix 18. Reasons and premises for the conquest of Rhodes and the Dodecanese archipelago by the Knights Hospitaller,** *Mediaevalia*, year I, 2011, vol. 3, 72–102, ISSN 1314-2775.

The publication summarizes the reasons and premises for the conquest of the isle of Rhodes and the Dodecanese archipelago by the Knights Hospitaller; a military and political campaign which began in 1306 and ended in 1310. The text follows the participation of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in the unsuccessful campaigns aimed at restoring Latin rule in Syria and Palestine since 1291 until the fall of Ruad in 1303, and the subsequent civil war in Cyprus. A special attention is paid to the changes in the structure of the Order in the period after the fall of Acre. The article attempts to recreate the geopolitical situation in the area around Dodecanese archipelago at the beginning of XIV century and to indicate the historical processes and events that had the greatest influence on the beginning of the Knights’ military campaign in 1306.

**Appendix 19. The “Greek” project of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.** – In: VI. Stanev (ed.), *XVII Kyustendil Readings 2010. “The Failures in History”*, Faculty of History, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Regional Historical Museum – Kyustendil, Sofia, 2012, 117–128, ISBN 978– 954– 8191– 19– 7.

The study explores the failure of the so-called “Greek project” of the military Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. The Hospital’s attempts to accomplish the project had been going on for almost half a century since the middle of XIV to the beginning of the XV century. The project’s main objective was to establish the Hospital’s power over a large part of today’s Mainland Greece. The text defines the numerous reasons that thwarted the continuous efforts for its implementation. Among the reasons for the project’s ultimate failure the text enumerates the internecine struggles of the Western and Balkan Christian rulers, the outbreak of the Great Church Schism in Western Europe, the Knights’ inability to establish effective control over the troublesome mercenaries of the Navarrese Company, and the defeat of the Crusader army led by the Grand Master Juan Fernandez de Heredia by the forces of the Albanian despot Gjin Bua Spata in 1378.

**Appendix 20. The Holy League of 1332–1336/7 as a regional political factor in the Eastern Mediterranean, *Istorichesko badeshte*, Vol. XVI, 2012, 1-2, 116–144, ISSN 1311-0144.**

The publication presents the Bulgarian version (with some variations) of the study published in *Études Balkaniques*, XLVIII, № 1. The text clarifies the role of the first Holy League in the political history of the Eastern Mediterranean, the reasons for the appearance of the League; the complex negotiations and vicissitudes connected with its organization and the subsequent actions of the allied Christian fleet against the Turkish “Sea Beyliks” from the west coast of Asia Minor. The article offers a new look at the described events and their chronology, and its final conclusion is that the Holy League of 1332–1336/7 was the first crusade aimed directly at stopping the Turkish offensive against Europe, and its actions had long-lasting consequences for the political destiny of the region.

**Appendix 21. The Ottoman Expansion on the Balkans and the Crusade of the Master Fr. Juan Fernandez de Heredia, *Mediaevalia*, year II, 2012, vol. 4, 6–47, ISSN 1314-2755.**

The publication examines the early stages of the Ottoman expansion in the Balkans and their connection with the Crusade, organized and led by the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller, Fr. Juan Fernandez de Heredia (1377–1396). After the Byzantine emperors became vassals of the Ottoman emir Murad I (1362–1389) and the strategically disastrous for the Balkan Christians battle of Chernomen (26.IX.1371), the Roman papacy was alarmed and decided to declare a crusade against the Ottoman Turks. The study traces the efforts of Pope Gregory XI (1370–1378) to organize the campaign together with one of his most faithful

servants and allies – the Hospitaller fr. Juan Fernandez de Heredia. The latter was promulgated as the leader of the crusade and his military order in 1377. The text researches the reasons that led to the redirection of the Heredia's crusading campaign from the Ottoman territories in Thrace to the lordship of the Albanian despot Gjin Bua Spata in Epirus, and the course of events that led to the crusaders' defeat in 1378.

**Appendix 22. Sancta Unio or the Holy League 1332–36/37 as a Political Factor in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean,** *Études Balkaniques*, XLVIII, № 1, Institut d'Études balkaniques & Centre de Thracologie, 2012, 142–177, ISSN 0324-1654.

The article researches the role of the first Holy League in the political history of the Eastern Mediterranean, the reasons for the appearance of the League; the complex negotiations and vicissitudes connected with its organization, and the actions of the allied Christian fleet against the Turkish “Sea Beyliks” along the west coast of Asia Minor. The text employs a rich primary and secondary source base and offers a new look at the described events and their chronology. The author's final conclusion is that the Holy League of 1332–1336/7 was the first crusade in history aimed directly at stopping the Turkish offensive against Europe, and its actions had some long-lasting consequences for the political destiny of the region.

**Appendix 23. The rise of the “Greek” project of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and its political aspects (1353–1404).** – In: Simeonova, L. (ed.), *The Balkans and the World: modus concurrandi* [*Studia balcanica* 30]. Sofia, IBCT, 2014, pp. 143–165, ISBN 978-954-8536-14-1.

The publication summarizes the information about the origin of the “Greek” project of the Order of Rhodes Hospitallers and its political aspects in the period between 1353 and 1404. This geopolitical project first appeared in the mid-fifties of the XIV century with the main objective to place parts from present-day mainland Greece under the rule of the Knights Hospitaller. The text analyzes and systematizes a lot of primary and secondary sources to outline three chronological phases in the development of the Greek project, in each of which the project was firstly abandoned for a certain period and then revived. Based on the analysis of the available sources, a new hypothesis is raised about the emergence of the project that was probably influenced by the course of the civil war in Byzantium between the Cantacuzenes and Palaiologos in the 50's of XIV C. and the alleged allied relations between the Cantacuzenes and Pope Innocent VI (1352–1362).

**Appendix 24. The struggle for political and confessional influence over the lands on the Lower Danube.** – In: *Polomieto, finds, events, persons (Поломието, находки, събития, личности). VII and VIII national scientific conferences*. Veliko Tarnovo, Faber Publishing House, 2016, 760–777, ISBN 978-619-00-03649.

The article's main purpose is to represent analytical overview of the struggle for political and confessional influence over the lands on the Lower Danube in the last three decades of the XIII and the beginning of the XIV century. The text begins with an introduction to the earlier history of the Wallachian plain, followed by description of the political anarchy that occurred in the region after the Mongol invasion in the early 1240's and the subsequent attempts of various states and independent rulers to take advantage of it. The author raises the hypothesis of the formation of a coalition between the Eastern Orthodox forces (the Bulgarian Kingdom, the Kingdom of Serbia, the Principality of Vidin and the Wallachian Voivodeship) against the expansion of the Roman Catholic Kingdom of Hungary in the beginning of the XIV century.

**Appendix 25. The “heretical” teaching and the revolt of Sheikh Bedreddin Simavi – political and religious aspects.** – In: *Polomieto, finds, events, persons (Поломието, находки, събития, личности). VII and VIII national scientific conferences*. Veliko Tarnovo, Faber Publishing House, 2016, 803–812, ISBN 978-619-00-03649.

The article summarizes the political and social context of the uprising led by the Turkish Sheikh Bedreddin Simavi and his followers against the Ottoman rule in the Balkans and Asia Minor in the second decade of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and its direct consequences on the regional politics. The text takes into consideration the evidence for the influence of the popular dervish heterodox sects on the paramilitary Turkish colonies in Thrace, where the future sheikh grew up. A special attention is paid to the connection between Sheikh Bedreddin and the Ottoman sultan Musa (1410–1413). The publication concludes with a clarification of the chronology and the course of the uprising of Bedreddin and his followers in the Balkans and Asia Minor.

**Appendix 26. On the borders of Christian Europe: the steppe nomads and the “civilized” states, the world “beyond the rivers, forests and mountains” in the XII century,** *Vremena*, no. 9 (April, 2016). Sofia, 2016, 11–25, ISSN 2367-5527.

The article researches the history of the nomadic tribes inhabiting the steppe territories north of the Black Sea and their relations with the neighbor Christian countries in the twelfth century. The analysis of the primary and secondary sources employed in the research

concludes that the part of the Great Eurasian steppe, which bordered the Christian states in Europe, in the twelfth century still belonged to a completely different world from its neighbors. Sometimes group of exiles from the civilized countries found refuge in the steppe territories; however, after their escape they were no longer perceived as part of Christian civilization, but rather as another “Scythian” or “Cuman” tribe. On the other hand, the twelfth century foretold changes, since exactly then the neighboring Christian states began the first serious attempts to impose their cultural and political influence on the steppe tribes.

**Appendix 27. The Cumans’ Defeat by the Mongols in the First Half of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century: Pax Cumanica from Volga to Danube as a Shield of Christian Medieval Europe,** *Yearbook of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Center for Slavic-Byzantine Studies “Ivan Duichev”,* Vol. 99 (18). Sofia, Center for Slavic-Byzantine Studies “Ivan Duichev”, 2017, 179–195, ISSN 1311-784X.

The publication summarizes the historical evidence for the role of a defensive shield for Christian Europe, played by the Cuman tribal confederacy, which dominated over the western half of the so-called Great steppe of Eurasia in XI–XIII centuries. The text begins with a definition of the historical processes that made Europe “the Christian land” compared to all the other parts of the medieval world and continues with an overview of the Cuman domination over the border steppe territories. Unlike previous and future political alliances of nomadic tribes in the Great Eurasian steppe, the western Cuman tribes until the start of XIII century largely fell under the influence of the neighboring Christian states. Immediately before the Mongol invasion in the 1220’s – 1240’s, the Christian borders with the steppe were stable, and the Cumans were regarded more like allies than enemies. The Cuman tribes, often allied with their Christian neighbors, stubbornly resisted the Mongol invasion to the west. The text concludes that for a long time the Pax Cumanica played the role of a shield for the Christian medieval Europe against more hostile and aggressive nomadic tribes.

**Appendix 28. The Kingdom of Serbia and the Tsardom of Bulgaria in the struggle for political influence over the lands along the Lower Danube at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.** – In: L. Simeonova; L. Taseva (eds.), *The Balkans as World Crossroads: Contacts and Exchange* [*Studia balcanica* 32]. Sofia, Tendril, 2017, 143–153, ISBN 978-954-92809-6-8.

The publication examines the causes and consequences of the little-known rivalry between the Kingdom of Serbia and the Bulgarian Tsardom for political supremacy over a large portion of the lands on the Lower Danube at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the last decades of the 13<sup>th</sup>

century the Kingdom of Serbia “took over” from the Kingdom of Hungary the role of the main rival of the Second Bulgarian Tsardom for the political supremacy over the lands along the Lower Danube from Belgrade to Vidin. Bulgarian state took part in this struggle rather indirectly – by supporting practically independent regional rulers, such as Prince Shishman of Vidin and the lords of the Branichevo region, the brothers Durman and Kudelin. The analysis of the available sources concludes that the main role in the fate of the region was played by the powerful Mongol warlord Nogai, whose vassals became both the Bulgarian tsars and the Serbian kings. However, in the long run the situation benefited mostly the Kingdom of Serbia, which for the first time expanded its borders to the valley of Danube.

**Appendix 29. The Cumans migration to the Balkans in the late 30’s and early 40’s of the XIII century,** *Balkani*, Vol. 2/6/2017, IBCT–BAS, 2017, 14–26, ISSN 1314-4103.

One of the greatest Mongol victories in the Middle Ages was the ultimate defeat inflicted on the mighty Cuman tribal confederation in the years between the 1219 and 1243. A great number of the surviving Cumans took the path of emigration. Many of them found refuge in the territory of their old ally Bulgarian Tsardom and in other Balkan states. The publication summarizes and discusses the source evidence for the Cuman migration to the Balkans in the middle of the XIII century. The research comes to the conclusion that in the period 1238–1243 there were not less than three separate Cuman migrations in the territories of the Bulgarian Tsardom, the Latin Empire and other Balkan countries. The newcomers played a significant role in the history of the Balkan nations, and even today the toponyms of Cuman origin are very common in the eastern half of the Balkan Peninsula.

**Appendix 30. The abandoning of the medieval fortress of Pernik as part of the political changes in the Central Balkans’ region in the late 80’s and the early 90’s of the XII century.** – In: G. Nikolov; V. Krumova (eds.), *Krakra* 1/2020. Sofia – Pernik, University Publishing House “St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2020, 133–151, ISBN 978-954-07-4981-5.

Many of the contemporary Bulgarian researchers came to the conclusion that the fortress of Pernik was destroyed and abandoned around the end of the XII century. The present study tries to clarify the reasons that led to the destruction and abandonment of the fortress, and to give a more accurate chronology for the connected events. The text employs the available source information and reaches to the conclusion that Pernik was most likely destroyed during the military campaign of the Serbian Great Zhupan Stefan Nemanja (1166–1196) against Byzantium in the second half of 1189 and the beginning of 1190. The study indicates the

causes of the war between Byzantium, Bulgaria and Serbia in the late eighties and early nineties of the twelfth century, and offers a chronology of the various stages in the military actions on the central Balkan front or, more precisely, the lands near the old Roman road Via Diagonalis. A special attention is paid to the role of the Third Crusade in the described events. The Crusaders' passage through the Balkan lands and their conflict with Byzantium in 1189–1190 were the most probable reason for the military campaign of Stefan Nemanja, which led to the destruction and abandonment of the medieval fortress on today's Krakra Hill.