

Kiril Petkov (Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria)

MIDDLE BULGARIAN EVIDENCE FOR CYRIL AND METHODIUS' HISTORICAL
TRADITION 13TH–14TH CENTURIES – A REINTERPRETATION

(Summary)

This paper is an attempt to bring to reinterpretation Late Bulgarian – 13th–14th centuries especially – traditions in the recording of Cyril and Methodius' deeds. The core of the analysis is the 16th century “Short Life” of St Methodius, discovered in Voevodina in the mid-nineteenth century, but still not properly investigated. A detailed comparison of its extant remains and the written tradition best preserved and now generally accepted – this of the Lives of SS Cyril and Methodius – shows the striking authenticity and accuracy of its data. It seems to be a “twin life” of the so-called “Uspenie Kirilovo” and helps to establish the dominant tradition during the 13th and 14th centuries, a tradition distinct from the Lives, and consistent with the “Short Life”’s testimonies. The paper also traces the information of this now lost tradition back to earliest times and tries to establish its reflections in other Byzantine and Slavic sources of the 13th–14th centuries.