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THE FESCO INSCRIPTIONS FROM IVANOVO – TEXT AND FUNCTION

*(Summary)*

It the valley of the river Russenski Lom and its tributaries in the region of Russe is found one of the most original monuments of the medieval art and culture not only on Bulgarian territory but in the whole Orthodox world – this is a complex of small churches and monks' cells hewn out in the rocks. The frescoes in some of these represent wonderful works of art. Of utmost importance are the inscriptions in Bulgarian language found of today's territory of Bulgaria. The subject of research are all preserved fresco inscriptions (XII–XIV c.) A review is made of all preceding publications and decipherings. Parallels are drawn between these and texts from Old Bulgarian and Middle Bulgarian manuscripts. The liturgical function of the texts seen on the rolls of the saintly bishops is pointed out.