

Nikolai Ovcharov (Sofia, Bulgaria)

THE 14TH CENTURY INSCRIPTIONS AT MARKOV MONASTERY NEAR SKOPIE
AND THE POLITICAL UPSURGE OF THE KINGS VULKASHIN AND MARKO

(Summary)

Epigraphic monuments at Markov Monastery near Skopie (14th c.) are examined in the article. These are: the building inscription of the main church “St. Dimiter”, the inscriptions round the images of the donors, the Kings Vulkashin and Marko, and the tracery text on a chandelier with the title of the same King Vulkashin. The author adds two new epigraphic monuments on the facades of the church, discovered and photographed personally by him. The set of inscriptions reveals the long history of the construction of the monastery in the 14th c. and important events during the rule of Vulkashin and Marko. About 1365 they broke away from the Serbian Kingdom in the territory of which before that had been Vardar Macedonia. The analysis of the sources shows that most probably the two made attempts at close co-operation with the Bulgarian Kingdom. The “St. Dimiter” Church, completed in 1376–1377, was the apotheosis and also the last manifestation of their power. Immediately after that the domain of King Marko was reduced in size by the Turkish invasion and he was compelled to declare himself a vassal of the Sultan.