Palaeobulgarica XXV (2001), 3, 5–30
ISSN 0204-4021

Svetlina Nikolova (Sofia, Bulgaria)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DATES OF COMMEMORATING ST. NAHUM OF OHRID AND ARCHBISHOP JOASAPH

(Summary)

All the documentary data on the two days of celebrating the church festival of St. Nahum Ohridski – December 23 and June 30 – are analysed in the article. It has been established that the first of them emerged not after the end of the 10th c. It was adopted by the Archbishop of Ohrid Joasaph (1718/1719–1745/1747) for two decades after his enthronement up to 1740. A detailed study is made of the role of Joasaph in introducing the date June 20 as a festival of St. Nahum. The pieces of information about document No. XXXVI of the lost Codex of the Archbishopric of Ohrid, written in 1779 in which direct mention was made of the shifting of the festival from December 23 to June 20 by Archbishop Joasaph and a church-people's council are examined in detail and the conclusion is reached that this document cannot be used to establish the date June 20. The comprehensive examination of the extant information gives grounds to assume that the date June 20 appeared in the service tradition much before the time of Archbishop Joasaph, perhaps during the time of the Archbishop of Ohrid Constantine Kavasila (1250–1275). Joasaph, however, had enormous merits for the church legitimization of this date, in oblivion prior to him, and for its use after 1742. Although a Greek manuscript is known from the very end of the 17th c. in which it was used, in actual fact June 20 did not replace December 23 but the two dates have so far been used in parallel. In the article are indicated all the Slavonic and Greek handwritten and printed texts up to the beginning of the 20th c. which prove this, and a Greek publication of 1911, unknown to science, is also reported. Published are four facsimiles of the Greek manuscript No. II A 7793 of the Bulgarian Historical Archives of the "SS Cyril and Methodius" National Library of the late 17th c., a facsimile of manuscript No. 252 of the Church Historical-Archival Institute at the Bulgarian Patriarchate in Sofia (a copy of the Codex of the Archbishopric of Ohrid, made after 1870–1872) and of the title page of the 1911 edition of the Service for St. Nahum.