

THE DYNASTIC NAME DULO – ETYMOLOGY AND MEANING

(A hypothesis)

(Summary)

The origin and meaning of the Bulgarian dynastic name Dulo has been the subject of many studies since 1866 when The Name List of Bulgarian Rulers was discovered. So far the majority of the scholars have proposed Turkic and Iranian etymologies for the name Dulo. This article aims to present an alternative view on the origins and meaning of the name Dulo. The suggested hypothesis combines data from archeological, epigraphic and linguistic sources.

The author focuses on the Thracian and Bosphorus personal name Dules, which probably was the name of a Thracian deity, connected with the celestial and solar cults. Old Great Bulgaria inherited the state and cultural tradition of the Bosphorus kingdom along with part of its Sarmatian and Thracian inhabitants and the sacred name Dules transformed into the dynastic name Dulo. After the transfer of the Bulgarian political center South of the river Danube Bulgarian builders widely used Roman bricks bearing the stamp DVLES for the buildings in Pliska, Preslav and Madara. One of the reasons for this was that the name Dules was sacred for Thracians, Sarmatians and Bulgarians. The article includes also a chronological overview of the main hypotheses regarding the origin of the name Dulo.

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