

EULOGY ON THE SOFIA MARTYRS – EDITION OF THE TEXT AND STUDY

(Summary)

The “Eulogy on the Sofia Martyrs” is one of the few original Bulgarian works created most probably early in the second half of the 16th century and preserved only in one copy, probably an original, included in the MS № 1521 in the collection of the Institute of Church History and Archives at the Bulgarian Patriarchate in Sofia. The eulogy praises the righteous struggle of three martyrs from Sofia – George the New Martyr from Sofia, George the Newest Martyr from Sofia and Nicholas of Sofia.

The work concentrates on the activity of Nicholas of Sofia, which shows that the author was his contemporary. The study presents some specific features of the MS such as the fact that it is the work of three scribes and not of one as has generally been assumed. In spite of the similarities in the handwriting of the second and the third copyist, the text shows some characteristic graphic peculiarities. On the basis of this three independent parts may be distinguished that were bound together later on. The article presents a diplomatic edition of the text of the eulogy. It characterizes the lexicon of the three parts of the manuscript and traces the historical development of some lexemes from the time of the classical Old Bulgarian manuscripts (10th century) onward.

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