## Palaeobulgarica XLI (2017), 2, 34-45 ISSN 0204-4021

THE MEANING OF A WORD AND THE TEXT OF NOVGOROD BIRCH BARK DOCUMENT  $^{\rm 1}$  199

(Summary)

The Novgorod birch bark document <sup>1</sup> 199 is among the most famous ones. Its author, a boy called Onfim, sends his greetings to someone called Danila. Next to the text, the boy drew a picture depicting a beast and accompanied it with an inscription. The article suggests a new reading of this inscription that offers the possibility to see the image and all the texts in this document as an integrated semantic unit.

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