

**S. Antonov**

## **THE COAT OF SOUTH BULGARIA (1886–1908)**

(Summary)

The author gives a detailed description of the coat of arms of South Bulgaria which is almost unknown in Bulgaria and about which practically nothing is written in the prestigious publications of professional heralds. The absence of popularity of this armorial bearing is due both to the short period of its use and because heraldry does not occupy a serious place in scientific life owing to the five centuries of statelessness and the destruction of the Bulgarian aristocratic families after Bulgaria's fall under Ottoman slavery. In spite of that, the coat of arms of South Bulgaria is a fact in the Bulgarians, though short, heraldic tradition and it elucidates the historical development of certain coats of arms and the influence of European heraldry on Bulgaria.