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Codicology as an Auxiliary Historical Science. The Manuscript Heritage from the Region of Epir (XI–XIV)- Source of Historical Information

(Summary)

The object of study of codicology as an auxiliary historical science, researching the MS book as one whole, assumes an interdisciplinary character of the research and interface with paleography, historiography, archival science, archeography, diplomatics, science of art, theory of literature, philigranology, culturology, linguistic science and textology. The research of MS heritage originating from a certain geographical area, extends the historical knowledge about the region, about the cultural development, about the political, economical and clerical contacts with the neighbouring regions and the centres in the capital. The historical science gains valuable data about political, economical and military events from the marginal notes on the pages of the manuscripts. There is also information about personalities, toponymys, anthroponymys, moreover, the old seals and signatures on the MS – show the libraries and the collections, where the books were kept. The presentation of “The Preliminary Repertoire of Manuscripts from the Region of Epir (XI-XIV c.)” and the information, contained in the marginal notes gives us valuable information about the political development of the Epir Despoty, about the functioning and the activities of the system of monastery centres, about the hardly researched by now question about the role of the patronage and the participation of the local and military elite in the cultural life in the region, about the relations between Epir and the rest of the regions in the Byzantine Empire, with the Latin West and etc. They allow us to

reconstruct fully the activity of famous historical and clerical personalities such as Ioan Apokavk, Dimitar Homatian, Kliment Monomach, Georios Bardanes, Michael Zorianos and etc.