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**ON THE QUESTION OF AGE STRUCTURE IN BULGARIAN PRE-RENAISSANCE SOCIETY. OLD MEN AND CENTENARIANS IN BULGARIAN LANDS IN XV - XVIII CENTURY**

(Summary)

This study summarized the first initial results in a research on a much broader subject, namely - “Young” and “old” in the structure of Bulgarian pre-renaissance society”. For that purpose different in kind and origin sources for the period have been traced and used: such as Bulgarian marginal notes, information of contemporary - Greek, and French, British, Austrian and other reports and travel notes of diplomats and travelers, Ottoman narrative and documental materials and above all the Name indexes of the population, subject to taxation. Particularly useful for the elaboration on the theme was the fact, that in most documents written in XV - beginning of XVI century, as an indicator for a particular person.s age, repeatedly the Bulgarian word “star” (old) written in Arabic letters was used, as well as, the Bulgarian words “dedo” (old man), “baba” (old woman), “belobrad” (white bearded) etc. Without claim for thoroughness, the study spreads over different regions of Bulgarian lands (the regions of Sofia, Tarnovo, Yambol, Kotel, Gabrovo, Kamobat, Rouse, Samokov, Pleven, Varna, Dobrich, Ohrid, etc.), as well as different groups and categories of population (men and women, Christians and Muslims, voinuk formations, dervendjies and so on). The parameters of the notion “old age” as it is generally accepted in XV-XVIII century are looked up; the possibilities for some mistakes and inaccurateness in establishment of the age characteristics are allowed; although approximately, the relative share of “the old. in the social

structures is studied; the field of activities, where with age positions are lost, or on the contrary, gained are outlined; examples with colorful descriptions of centenarians from Bulgarian lands are given.