

Günter Prinzing

**THE AUTOCEPHALOUS BYZANTINE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE
OF BULGARIA/OHRID. HOW INDEPENDENT WERE ITS
ARCHBISHOPS?**

(Summary)

The main topic of this paper is the autocephalous Archbishopric of “Bulgaria” in the Byzantine era (thus until c. 1334, the beginning of Serbian dominance). From 1020 on, this archbishopric never had its see in Preslav or Tǎrnovo, but always in Achrida/Ohrid, so we generally speak of the Archbishopric of Ohrid. It continued to exist as an independent ecclesiastical province until well into the Turkish period, only ‘reverting’ to the Patriarchate of Constantinople under compulsion in 1767. I shall speak first about the status, extent and function of the Archbishopric of Ohrid, and then I shall go into the question of the independence of its archbishops with respect to the Byzantine emperor and patriarch.