

**Iliya Georgiev Iliev**

**THE BULGARIAN SCHOLARS AT THE 22TH WORLD CONGRESS  
OF BYZANTINE STUDIES IN SOFIA**

(Summary)

The 22nd international congress of Byzantine studies was the greatest event in the academic life of the Bulgarian medieval studies in the last five years. The congress was held in Sofia in August 2011 and showed to the colleagues from abroad and to the members of the international association of byzantologists our good abilities for organization and our numerous academic community. Among the participants there were representatives of different generations of Bulgarian scholars – from PhD students to eminent professors at Sofia University, academicians and corresponding members of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, university professors from other cities and towns in the country. As concomitant culture programme a number of exhibitions was opened, some showing Byzantine manuscripts and artifacts of the medieval art and culture on the Balkan Peninsula (including exponents from Bulgarian museums and depositories) which had not been displayed before. The congress was undoubtedly the most significant academic event in Bulgaria for the last decades. However, against the background of the spiritual crisis and the election campaign just started, the event hardly ever drew the attention of the media, party headquarters and government bodies.