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**TSARITSA ANNA (1221–1237) – A DIFFERENT LOOK AT TWO
DECADES OF BULGARIAN MEDIEVAL HISTORY**

(Summary)

This is a prosopographic research which tries to reveal what we know about the Hungarian princess Maria, daughter of King Andrew II, who ended her life as Tsaritsa Anna, wife of Tsar Ivan II Asen from 1221 to 1237. Analyzing the scarce sources the author looks for the answers of questions such as Anna's year of birth, the reasons she was married to Ivan Asen, the two names she was mentioned in the sources with, her activities as tsaritsa, her children and finally her death. Tsaritsa Anna died before she attained the age of thirty but she nevertheless left a clear trace in the history of mediaeval Bulgaria. Like all foreign princesses who were crowned Bulgarian tsaritsas Maria/Anna fitted perfectly in the new environment and left the memory of her dignified presence next to her royal husband, whom she supported in every endeavor - from the transfer of the relics of St. Petka and St. John Polivotski to the restoration of the independent Bulgarian Patriarchate. According to the sources she led pious life worthy of emulation filled with religious zeal which found expression in the construction of landmark churches in the capital Turnovo and monasteries them.