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WHO IS THE *PROTOSPATHARIOS* AARON, ATTESTED ON A LEAD SEAL?

(Summary)

The article advances some possible attributions of a lead seal of a certain Aaron, *protospatharios epi tou chrysotriklinou*, published in 2010 but unreasonably related to the homonymous son of tsar John Vladislav. This identification is doubtful. Firstly, due to the evidence of Skylitzes, Zonars and Michael of Devol, a commentator of the former, who state that Aaron was granted the higher rank of *patrikios* as early as 1018. Furthermore, the title of *protospatharios* was too low in the hierarchy at the beginning of the 11th c. for it to be bestowed on someone belonging to the Bulgarian royal house. The authors suggest that the seal in question might have belonged to a relative of Aaron (either by blood or by ritual) or his dependent, keeping in mind though, that the issue of the seal's owner is virtually unsolvable by itself.

Keywords: Aaron, *protospatharios*, lead seal, Byzantium, prosopography

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