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PORTRAITS FROM RAGUSA (PROSOPOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT BULGARIANS WHO LIVED IN DUBROVNIK DURING THE 13th – 14th CENTURIES)

(Summary)

The research is dedicated to an important and broad topic from our past, related to the prosopography of the medieval Bulgarian state. The study focuses on the information about ordinary Bulgarians who lived in Dubrovnik in the period of the 13th – 14th centuries. The chronological framework is determined entirely by the historical features related to the establishment and development of Bulgarian-Dubrovnik relations during the Middle Ages. The lower chronological limit is marked by the establishment of official political and economic relations between the Second Bulgarian Tsardom and the Dalmatian Commune in the era of the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan II Asen (1218–1241). As for the upper chronological limit, it is determined by the sunset of the Bulgarian tsardom, which fell under the blows of the Ottoman Turks at the end of the 14th century.

The study is based mainly on Dubrovnik sources, giving information about one or another person. From the content of the written testimonies known to us so far, information is revealed about a total of thirteen Bulgarians, who in one way or another connected their fate with that of Ragusa. This fact leads us to think that during the considered period there were not many representatives of the Kingdom of Tarnovo in the Adriatic city. This limited number of people, however, comes to show something else: that the emphasis in the bilateral contacts was primarily

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aimed at the Bulgarian territories. The people of Dubrovnik seem to be more interested in the development of trade relations with Bulgarian lands, and therefore a number of representatives of Ragusa deployed their activities in Bulgaria and the Balkans. This is probably one of the reasons why in the Archives of Dubrovnik there are not many names of ordinary Bulgarians – merchants or craftsmen – who lived in Ragusa during the considered period.

Keywords: Dubrovnik (Ragusa), Second Bulgarian Tsardom, prosopography, personalities, historical portraits, State Archive of Dubrovnik.