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National Recovery and Resilience Plan



OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Who is Symeon Metaphrastes?

Symeon Metaphrastes was a highly educated Byzantine man of letters who lived and worked in 10th-century Constantinople. He was given the surname Metaphrastes (from the Greek μεταφράζω "to edit") because of his editorial work on the lives of saints written in the earlier centuries. Symeon Metaphrastes was the first to realize the need to unify texts belonging to a common type, thus setting a pattern for writing such works. The redaction that Symeon and the group of scribes who worked with him carried out is known as the Metaphrastic hagiographical reform.



The Importance of Metaphrastic Hagiography

In the Byzantine tradition after the 10th century, the Metaphrastic Menologia became the main hagiographical compendium, defining the genre and stylistic patterns that later hagiographical texts would follow.

No full translation was made in the Slavonic tradition, and until the end of the medieval period the pre-Metaphrastic hagiography, with its peculiarities, remained the dominant hagiographical compendium.

In the light of the new discoveries and the identification of the complete translation of the September volume of the Metaphrastic Menelagium, new perspectives are outlined in the interpretation of the question of the presence of Metaphrastic works in the Slavonic hagiographical tradition.



Metaphrastic Hagiography in the South Slavonic Manuscript Tradition



The Presence of Metaphrastic Hagiography in the Medieval Balkan Cyrillic Manuscript Tradition

Results so far

- A list of the Metaphrastic hagiographical works for each month has been made
- Greek originals have been identified
- A survey of the presence of Metaphrastic texts in calendrical collections was carried out

Primary objective

The project's primary objective is to scrutinize texts by Symeon Metaphrastes within the broader context of the presence of his hagiographic works in the Slavonic tradition.

Three are the key approaches in this study:

The Greek and Slavonic hagiographical texts for September will be researched with the main purpose prayer texts to be identified within the structure of the hagiographical narrative.

Analysis of specific hagiographical texts and their translation, editorial decisions in the course of their transmission.

General overview of the Metaphrastic hagiography in the Slavonic tradition.

Head of the research group

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