Dragić Živojinović
Institute of History, Belgrade

Nebojša Porčić
University of Belgrade – Faculty of Philosophy

Collection of Medieval Bulgarian Documents
on Monasterium.Net

Future in the Past:
Bulgarian History Growing Online
Sofia 2014

Second Bulgarian Empire (1186–1396)

- **29 documents**

- **20 documents emanating from the imperial chancery**

- **10 Cyrillic imperial documents**

- **1 forgery (Cyrillic charter of Tsar Ioan Kaliman)**

Dispersion of Bulgarian Diplomatic Material

- **Vatican archives: 11 documents**

- **Mount Athos: 8 documents (Zograf 4, Vatoped 2, Hilandar 2)**

- **Constantinople: 3 documents**

- **Venetian archives: 2 documents**

- **St. Petersburg, Dubrovnik, Genoa, Brashov, Bulgaria: one document each**

Document Issuers

- **Chancery of Tsar Kaloyan: 10 documents (including five issued by Archbishop Basil)**
- **Ioan Alexander: 7 documents (Greek 3, Latin 2, Slavic 2)**
- **Ioan Asen II, Ioan Šišman: two documents each**
- **Belota, Alexis Slav, Michael Asen, Constantine Tich, Ivanko, Ioan Sracimir: one document each**
- **Two undisputed 16th century forgeries made in Zograf monastery**

Document Language

- **Latin: 14 documents (-11)***

- **Slavic: 11 documents (+11)***

- **Greek: four documents**

* 11 documents from the correspondence with Pope Innocent III were first translated from Bulgarian to Greek, and then from Greek to Latin.

Chronological Distribution of Documents

- **14 documents from the first 50 years of existence of the Second Bulgarian Empire (up to 1230)**

- **11 documents from the last 50 years of medieval Bulgarian state (1342–1396)**

- **Two documents for the period 1231–1341**

- **Two forged documents (most probably) from the 16th century**

State of Preservation and Diplomatic Status

- **17 documents preserved as copies in archival registries and monastic cartularies**

- **Five documents separately preserved on paper (originals 3, contemporary copy 1, later interpolated copy 1)**

- **Seven documents separately preserved on parchment (forgeries 2, originals 3, copy? 1)**

Formalized Date
as Main Identifier of Documents

Examples 1:

- **1347-12-01_Ioan_Alexander**

= charter was issued by Tsar Ioan Alexander on December 1st 1347

- **1204-10-15_tpq_Kaloyan**

= charter was issued by Tsar Kaloyan after October 15th 1204

- **1203_09_01_byz_Archbishop_Basil**

= charter was issued between Sept 1st 1203 and Aug 31st 1204

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Formalized Date
as Main Identifier of Documents

Examples 2:

- **missing date elements are replaced by letter X:**

  1342-03-xx_Ioan_Alexander = charter from March 1342

- **uncertain year marked with ?**

  1230-04-xx_?_Ioan_Asen_II _ = issued in April, probably 1230

- **copies marked by letters A, B, C, etc.**

  1352-10-04_Ioan_Alexander_B = copy B of document issued by Ioan Alexander on October 10, 1352

Presentation Format of Bulgarian Documents
on Monasterium.net

➢ date and place of issuing
➢ short abstract
➢ original date from document
➢ seal description and seal owner
➢ material, dimensions, possible damages
➢ place of keeping
➢ tradition (original, copy, transumpt, forgery, fragment)
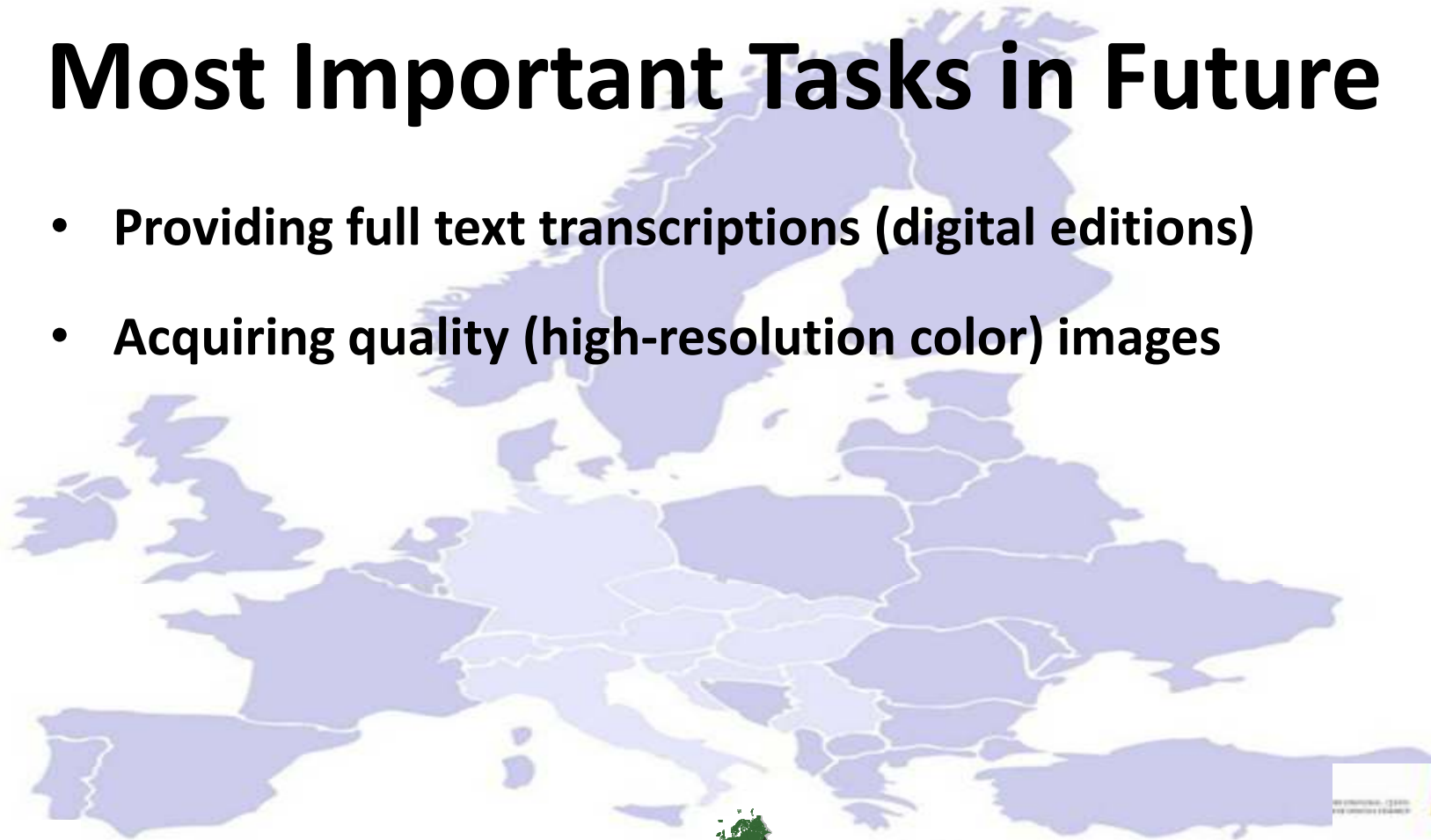➢ other copies
➢ editions
➢ languague
➢ images

Most Important Tasks in Future

- **Providing full text transcriptions (digital editions)**

- **Acquiring quality (high-resolution color) images**

Problem of Images

- **No images for seven documents**
- **22 documents are represented by images of various quality**
  - ➢ **quality color images for only two documents**
  - ➢ **four documents with good black and white images that will soon be replaced by color images**
  - ➢ **five black and white images hopefully to be replaced by color counterparts in due time**
  - ➢ **11 documents from the Vatican can only be published if a substantial sum of money is paid for copyright permission**

Culture

ENArC

Thank you for your attention!

Благодаря за вашето внимание!

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