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On the cover: a silver coin, 1st c. BC. See the paper of Pentshev (Abb. 10, obverse).

Human Remains from the Mesolithic to the Chalcolithic Period in Southern Romania. An Update on the Discoveries

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVI, 3 (2012), 1-46

Raluca KOGĂLNICEANU

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this material was to update older synthesis and to lay the ground for new angles of viewing the human remains.

We first defined the categories in which we considered to divide the discoveries. We used the spatial factor as defining trait, putting thus the accent on the larger (spatial) context of burials and other human remains rather than on features that are specific to burials by themselves (such as treatment of the body, grave goods, etc.). We catalogued and mapped 75 sites from Southern Romania where human remains were discovered, and in the end we present an overview of the data, and highlight some of the major constants and changes in the disposal of a dead body that occurred in the interval between the Mesolithic and the Chalcolithic periods.

The number of finds per period, per area or per culture is too heterogeneous to draw any final conclusions. We could notice how regional or personal interest led to different quantity and quality of the published data. The synthesis of the information could, none the less, lead to some observations regarding possible patterns in the spatial relationship between the living and the dead. The deceased seemed to have played an important role in the communities, their presence close to the living being a permanent marker even when and where cemeteries were used for the burials.

Keywords: Synthesis, human remains, patterns, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Southern Romania

INTRODUCTION

This article is the first of a series that will be produced within a project that tries to analyze the spatial relationship between the living and the dead. In order to perform the spatial analysis, an overview of the material under study is needed. Last review of this type was published almost 40 years ago (Comşa 1974b), and an update was felt necessary as many discoveries were made during this interval. The main purpose of this paper is to be, first of all, an updated tool for the scholars that focus their research on the study of funerary behavior. As it will be seen, a large number of discoveries are still published with little data regarding the relationship between human remains and other com

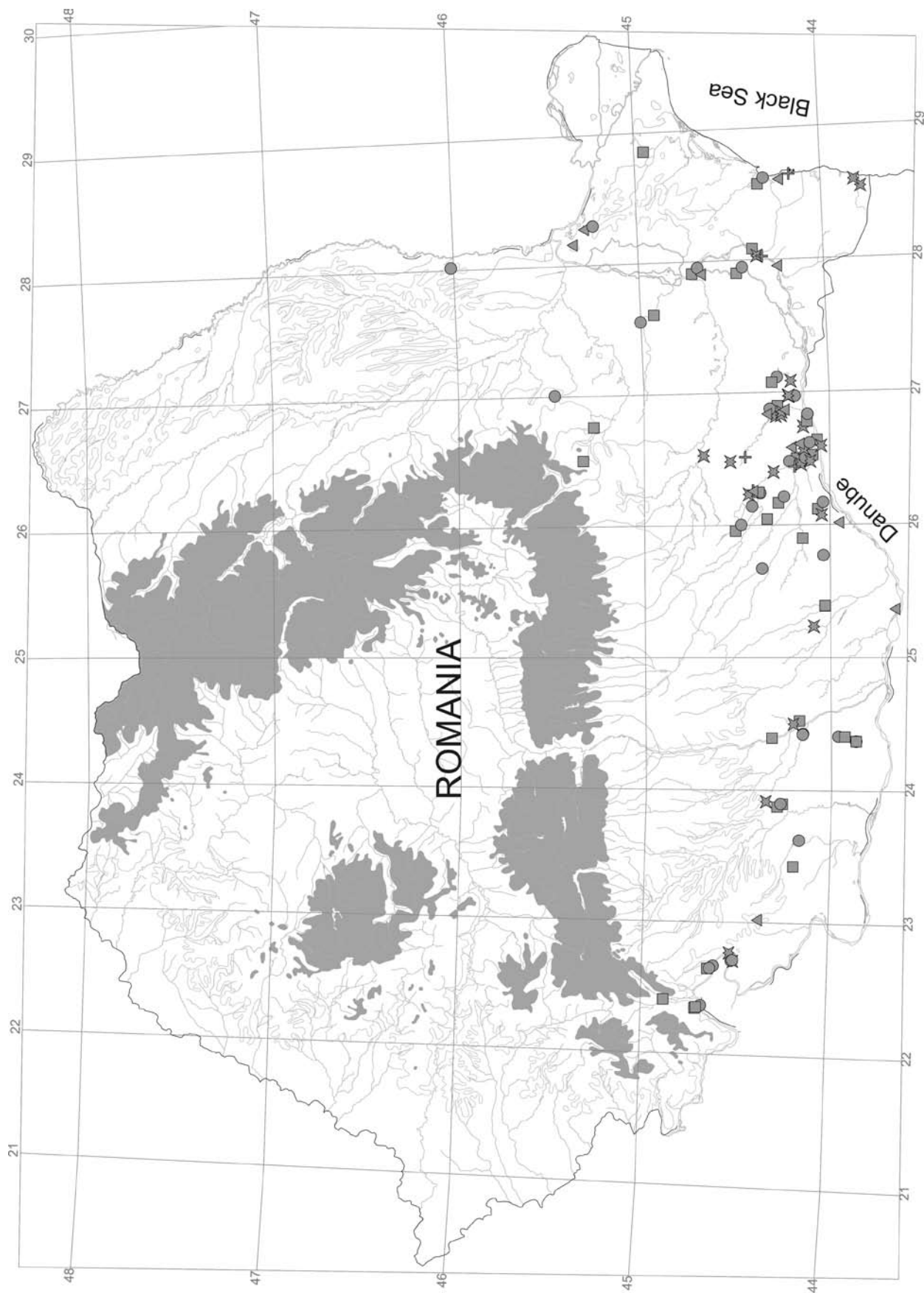


Fig. 1a. General map with all the discoveries

Teil eines Sammelfunds mit “barbarischen” Nachahmungen von Tetradrachmen aus Thasos und Maroneia (I. Jh.v.Chr.) aus dem Fonds des Nationalen Historischen Museums Sofia

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVI, 3 (2012), 47-56

Vladimir PENTSCHEV

Im Jahre 1977 übergaben die damaligen Rechtsorgane dem Nationalen Historischen Museum Sofia einen Teil eines Münzschatzes. Die Finder hatten ihren Fund entgegen der existierenden Gesetzgebung nicht angegeben, sondern verschiedenen Privatpersonen verkauft. Der Sammelfund stammt wahrscheinlich aus Südostbulgarien. Insgesamt wurden dem Nationalen Historischen Museum Sofia 14 Münzen übergeben. Sie werden im Hauptfonds der Sammlung “Numismatik und Sphragistik” unter den Inv. #2272-2285 geführt. 13 Exemplare davon sind sog. “barbarische” Nachahmungen der Tetradrachmen der Insel Thasos aus der zweiten Periode ihrer Münzprägung. Die letzte Münze ist eine “barbarische” Nachahmung der Tetradrachmen der Stadt Maroneia, ebenfalls aus der zweiten Periode ihrer Münzprägung.

Das Vergraben des Funds kann ganz allgemein in das I. Jh.v.Chr. gesetzt werden. Er widerspiegelt manche charakteristische Besonderheiten des Umlaufmilieus in den südöstlichen thrakischen Territorien im Laufe dieses Jahrhunderts.

Im Folgenden wird eine Beschreibung der vierzehn Münzen gegeben:

KATALOG

I. “Barbarische” Nachahmungen der Tetradrachmen der Insel Thasos aus der zweiten Periode ihrer Münzprägung: 13 Exemplare

1. Avers: Bartloser jugendlicher Dionysos-Kopf, langhaarig, mit Efeukranz, nach rechts. Das Abbild ist leicht barbarisiert, was bedeutet, dass es grober und schematischer als bei den originalen Urtypen dargestellt ist.

Revers: Sinnlose Pseudo-Inschrift, bestehend aus buchstabenähnlichen Zeichen, gebildet hauptsächlich aus Strichen und Punkten. Herakles, nackt, stehend nach vorn, der Kopf nach links gewendet. Mit der rechten Hand stützt er sich auf eine Keule, über die Linke, in den Rücken gestützt, ist ein Löwenfell geworfen. Links der Füße befindet sich ein Pseudo-Monogramm, dem Buchstaben H ähnelnd, gebildet aus Strichen und Punkten. Das Abbild ist leicht barbarisiert, was bedeutet, dass es grober und schematischer als bei den originalen Urtypen dargestellt ist.



Abb. 1



Abb. 2



Abb. 3



Abb. 4



Abb. 5

The Diocese of Thrace (5th – 7th c.) according to the Sigillographic Data

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVI, 3 (2012), 57-76

Ivan JORDANOV

The Diocese of Thrace was the second in the prefecture of the East and occupied the eastern half of the Balkan Peninsula. It included six provinces: Scythia, Moesia II, Haemimontus, Thracia, Rhodope and Europa. With the exception of the first and the last, the rest partially or completely incorporate territories in modern Bulgarian lands overlapping with what is known as modern Eastern Bulgaria (История 1967, 137).

The research will make use of the sigillographic data relevant to the history of the Diocese of Thrace and further enlightening it.

The research was made possible only after the documentation and publication of all the seals from the territory of modern Bulgaria into one Corpus. I have worked on the project “Corpus of Byzantine Seals from Bulgaria” for more than thirty years.

The beginning was in 1979, when the foundations of a building used as archives by the local *strategos* in the period 971-1092 were discovered during archaeological excavations in the second medieval Bulgarian capital Preslav. More than 500 Byzantine lead seals, 250 lead blanks and 4 moulds for casting the blanks were found inside and near the building. All these finds were included and commented on in a monographic volume (Йорданов 1993).

Along with the work on the Preslav seals, the location, documentation and publication of all Byzantine seals from the territory of modern Bulgaria has also been my task during all those years. As a result of my constant effort more than 3,200 Byzantine seals, 800 lead blanks, 20 moulds for casting and 2 *boulloteria* have been located from the territory of modern Bulgaria and documented so far. They were published in three parts:

The *Corpus of the Byzantine Seals from Bulgaria*, volume 1: *The Byzantine Seals with Geographical Names* came out in 2003. It includes 1 *boulloterion*, and 421 Byzantine lead seals of dignitaries of the Byzantine provincial administration (secular, military and ecclesiastical) belonging to 80 different institutions in the province headed by 232 titulars.

The *Corpus of the Byzantine Seals from Bulgaria*, volume 2: *The Byzantine Seals with Family Names* followed in 2006. It encompasses nearly 800 lead seals struck in the name of more than 400 individuals who were representatives of ca. 300 different Byzantine families.



Fig. 1. Seal of John *notarios* and *vicarius* of Thrace (6th c.)



Fig. 2. Seal of John *notarios* and *vicarius* of Thrace (6th c.)



Fig. 3. Seal of John *notarios* and *vicarius* of Thrace (6th c.)



Fig. 4. Seal of Hadrianos *vicarius* of Thrace (6th c.)



Fig. 5. Seal of Hadrianos *vicarius* of Thrace (6th c.)



Fig. 6. Seal of Pardos *scriniarius* of Thrace (AD 550-650)

Statistical Data on Archaeological Field Surveys in Bulgaria, 2011 Season

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVI, 3 (2012), 77-89

Ivo D. CHOLAKOV / Krastyu CHUKALEV

This is the sixth consecutive year that statistical processing with focus on archaeological field surveys conducted on the territory of Bulgaria has been undertaken and the collected data have been analyzed¹. The information is primarily provided via electronic inquiry, sent annually to the college by the authors, as well as through the National Archeological Fieldwork Reports held in NIAM-BAS². The obtained results have been released in various publications³. The aim of this report is to present the summary statistics on the archaeological surveys during the 2011 season⁴.

The criteria under which the data processing is carried out are as follows: dating and type of the sites; type of the excavations; type of the accompanying interdisciplinary research; institutional affiliation of the researchers; international collaboration; location of the excavated sites; duration and funding source of the research⁵.

The total number of archeological excavations conducted in Bulgaria in 2011 is 221. **Fig. 1** presents their distribution based on the chronology. After serious decline recorded in the 2010 season, the total number of the investigated sites makes an increase of 6.76% over the last year. Again, as in previous years, the chronology distribution indicates that archaeological surveys of sites dating from the Antiquity are the most numerous. This is as expected if their prevalence on the territory of the country is taken into consideration. Researches of sites of prehistoric and medieval date are second in number during the last archaeological season. There are two independently investigated sites falling into "post-medieval" category. Actually, however, structures and artifacts from this period were found within different multi-layered archaeological sites where they are present. In nine out of all sites distinct archaeological structures were not ascertained, if any, therefore they do not allow any precise dating to be determined and are assigned to "unclear chronology" column.

Figure 2 shows the type of archaeological sites excavated in 2011. No archaeological materials were found in eight of the sites, and hence it is not possible to define them precisely. Compared to the statistical data on the previous years, settlement sites are again the most numerous group for each chronological period, namely more than 60 percent of all excavated sites. It is to be noted that elements belonging to the rest of the site types have been investigated in many settlement areas.

¹ I. D. Cholakov is the author of figures 1-7, together with the relevant text, and K. Chukalev is the author of all the rest.

² The published volume entitled "Археологически открития и разкопки през 2011 г.", София, 2012, НАИМ-БАН, was also used as a source of information.

³ All comparisons made herein are based on data published in statistical analyses of previous archaeological seasons (Cholakov / Chukalev 2008a; 2008b; Vagalinski et al. 2008; Cholakov / Chukalev 2009; Чолаков / Чукалев 2010; Cholakov / Chukalev 2010a; 2010b; 2011 and Чолаков / Чукалев 2011).

⁴ The authors would like to thank all the colleagues who participated in the electronic inquiry.

⁵ For a detailed description of the applied criteria see Cholakov / Chukalev 2008b, 89.

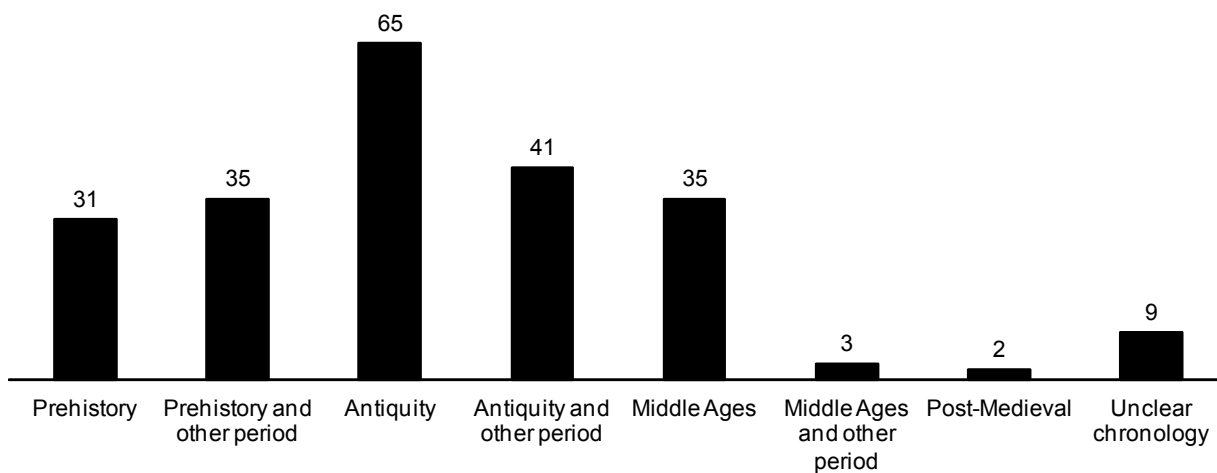


Fig. 1. Total number of archaeological excavations in Bulgaria in 2011

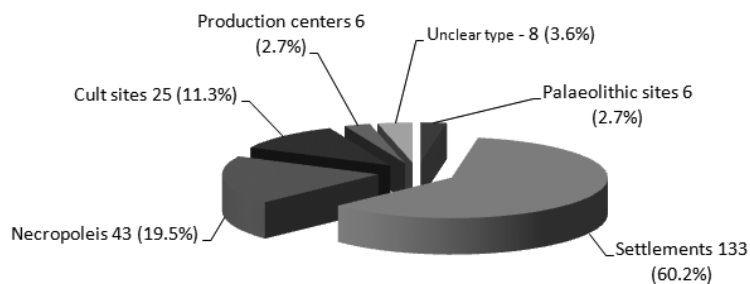


Fig. 2. Types of investigated archaeological sites in Bulgaria in 2011

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

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**Lyudmil VAGALINSKI / Nicolay SHARANKOV /
Sergey TORBATOV (eds.). The Lower Danube
Roman Limes (1st-6th C. AD). Sofia, 2012, 526 pp.,
275 b&w illus., ISBN 9789549472165**

The holding of the Congress of Roman Frontier Studies in Ruse in 2012 led to the production of several publications. Most related to individual sites; this book offers an eclectic overview of 20 papers covering a wide range of topics. They can be divided into groups: reviews of the literary sources; military history, occupation and equipment; architecture and portraiture; economy and production; religion and burial, particularly Christianity in both cases. These papers reveal the richness of the archaeological and architectural remains of the Lower Danube, the latter as indicated by Dimitrov's paper on the architectural orders.

The first paper, sensibly, is a discussion of the ancient literary sources by Boteva, and is notably concerned with the origin of the name *Moesia*. In spite of a thorough review of the evidence, little more can be said other than its first appearance is at the very beginning of the reign of Tiberius in 14 and the reason for its use remains a mystery.

Ivanov offers a review of military deployment in Bulgaria, supported by tables listing forts, maps and plans. He describes the chronological development of the frontier and its forts, relating both aspects to historical events in the area. It is impressive to see how much can be said bearing in mind that many of the forts are enormous and excavation so far has only been able to examine a small percentage of each. Preshlenov usefully looks at the role of the corridor along the southwest coast of the Black Sea and the Roman measures taken to control movement. At the other end of the scale, Torbatov offers a detailed investigation of *Trimammium*, the fort and the civil settlement, a valuable examination of the evidence for an enigmatic site.

Several papers consider life on the frontier. Tsarov describes the evidence for the aqueducts supplying the four legionary fortresses on the Danube, an important reminder of the care taken for the soldiers protecting the empire. Boyanov investigates veterans and society in the provinces of Lower Moesia and Thrace drawing on literary, epigraphic and archaeological sources. The conclusion is that they played a part but did not generally hold the highest offices. This no doubt related to their relatively restricted financial resources which also accounted for many of their sons entering the army.

Cholakov offers a view of the 'ancient economy ... based on finds of tools...'. Their distribution emphasises the importance of rural settlements in the hinterland of the cities in the production of food (and wine) and the predominance of agriculture over stock breeding, except in the environs of forts. *Villa rustica* estates have also yielded a significant number of the wood- and stone- and metal-working tools found in Bulgaria indicating the importance of such estates for the economy of the province, yet there is little evidence for innovations in tools during the Roman period.

Several papers discuss artefacts and production. Gencheva presents the evidence for military equipment, including some fine parade

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

XVI, 3 (2012), 95-103

Galina FINGAROVA. Die Baugeschichte der Sophienkirche in Sofia. Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden, 2011, 209 S., 191 Tafeln.

Die Kirche "Sv. Sofija" ist eines der bedeutendsten architektonischen Zeugnisse der Stadt Sofia, die bis heute erhalten sind. Ihre kulturhistorische Bedeutung ist herausragend und reicht über die heutigen Grenzen Bulgariens hinaus. Seit über einem Jahrhundert erfreut sich dieses einzigartige Denkmal eines nicht nachlassenden wissenschaftlichen Interesses, hervorgerufen durch seine Bedeutsamkeit und die zahlreichen Fragen in Verbindung mit seiner Errichtung. Die Monographie von Galina Fingarova ist das neueste Werk zu diesem Thema. Die Publikation entspricht im Wesentlichen der Dissertation der Autorin am Institut für Kunstgeschichte der Universität Wien aus dem Jahr 2008. Strukturell besteht das Buch aus der Einführung, sieben Kapiteln und dem Schlusswort. Dem Haupttext sind ein Annex mit den in Bezug auf die Problemstellung gesammelten schriftlichen Quellen, eine ausführliche Literaturliste und ein bedeutender Illustrationsteil aus 191 Tafeln hinzugefügt.

Schon am Beginn muss die Ambitioniertheit der Forschungsarbeit hervorgehoben werden, wie auch die Schwierigkeiten, die mit einem solchen Versuch verbunden sind. Die Forschungsgeschichte der Erkundungen der Sophienkirche ist durch das Fehlen einer stufenweisen Entwicklung und Kontinuität bei den archäologischen Forschungen gekennzeichnet. Jede archäologische Kampagne in und um der Kirche ist meist von der vorgehenden durch Jahrzehnte getrennt. Nicht immer wird sie von der entsprechenden Dokumentation begleitet und – bis zu einem bedeutenden Grade – noch immer nicht adäquat veröffentlicht. Erschwert wird andererseits die rein architektonische Analyse des Gebäudes durch die aufeinanderfolgenden Überarbeitungen und Vermischungen bei der Errichtung, und vor allem durch die vorgenommenen Restaurierungstätigkeiten, die zum großen Teil die wenigen erhalten gebliebenen Indikatoren, die mit dem originalen Bau in Verbindung standen, beseitigt haben. Trotz der offensichtlichen Probleme hat sich die Autorin der recht schwierigen Aufgabe angenommen, den Charakter und die Elemente der originalen Architektur festzustellen soweit das bei dem heutigen Zustand des Gebäude möglich ist, um sie als Grundlage der Analyse anzuwenden.

In der Einführung werden die Lage der Kirche und ihre allgemeinen metrischen Charakteristika betrachtet. Das Anfangskapitel legt eine kurze Geschichte der Stadt bis zur Befreiung Bulgariens dar. Im Großen und Ganzen ist das historische Bild korrekt umrissen. Benutzt werden die bisher bekannten Tatsachen, wie auch manche neue Forschungsergebnisse zu einzelnen Fragen. Ein Teil der Behauptungen (z.B. dass *Serdica* unter Traian *municipium* wird) können nicht als *opinio communis* in der wissenschaftlichen Literatur angenommen werden, doch aufs Ganze gesehen hat dies keinen Einfluss auf den Forschungsgegenstand.

Das nächste Kapitel ist einer ausführlichen Übersicht der bisherigen Literatur zum Thema gewidmet. Das schriftliche Quellenmaterial wird gesondert behandelt; ein untrennbarer Teil davon ist der am Ende des Werks angefügte Annex. An erster Stelle muss die Wichtigkeit einer solchen Herangehensweise und der daraus resultierende unbestreitba