

## **Archaeological investigations of the 15th-17th century period in Bulgaria**

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The archaeological study of the 15th-17th century monuments in Bulgaria already has a history, with certain achievements as well as problems. The time has come to present an interim report in chronological and subject-matter order on the excavations of late medieval sites and the interpretation of their results. This paper does not pretend at thoroughness, as far as the trends in development of late medieval archaeology in Bulgaria are concerned. The list of discussed themes includes only those, which are already liable to generalization in the form of monographs or dissertations in view of the available empirical material. The 15th-

17th century fortification, late medieval pottery, cemeteries and church and mosque construction are among the best-studied matters. However, there are still no serious generalizations on the production of jewellery, residential building and daily-life objects, which are the most common finds in all the late medieval sites.

Archaeological excavations of 15th-17th century monuments are carried out side by side with historical, ethnographic and ethnological investigations. The complex nature of these studies gives positive results, which are highly appreciated not only in Bulgaria, but also abroad.