

location within the collection, the Byzantine original and its variants, the relations between the original text and the translation as well as certain linguistic remarks on the Slavic material. The latter, although understandably not constituting comprehensive studies, refer to several aspects of language – morphology, syntax and vocabulary – thus offering a quite broad view of the topic. In view of the sizable corpus, the author arbitrarily chooses the linguistic problems for her analysis. In the domain of morphology, Dimitrova focuses on the use of archaic forms (e.g. inflectional endings of non-productive declensional types or aorist forms), forms that she considers “innovations” attested in the spoken language from the time, “East Bulgarianisms” or “Balkanisms” (p. 46; the relative pronoun *ижего*, the lack of the ending *-тъ* in the 3rd sg. present, etc.), as well as other forms interesting from the point of view of the history of the Bulgarian language (the various ways of expressing the passive voice, the periphrastic future tense with auxiliary verbs serving to render the Greek synthetic future, etc.). In her analysis of the syntax, the author points out the ways in which the translation handles Greek constructions involving the definite article (substantivized, attributive and participial), infinitive with article, accusative and infinitive, as well as genitive and dative absolute; furthermore, she studies the Old Bulgarian verbal constructions with *da*. As regards the vocabulary of the texts, it may, according to Dimitrova, be divided into the following groups: a) ‘Preslav’ and ‘non-Preslav, Cyrillo-Methodian, archaic’, b) words of Greek, Semitic and Proto-Bulgar origin, c) compounds, and d) theological, philosophical and

abstract terminology. For each text, the linguistic comments are supplemented by examples, often portraying the most interesting solutions and/or mistakes made by the translators.

The individual commentaries and analyses of each word of the *Zlatostruy* provided in the second part of the book enable the author to draw some general conclusions in the third part (*Обобщение и заключение / Generalizations and conclusions*, p. 309–315). These pertain to all of the linguistic aspects discussed above, revealing both similarities and differences among the texts under analysis.

Finally, the annexes – prepared with astonishing fastidiousness – constitute an integral part of the book. They include: a) the distinctive features of the translations (p. 335–356), b) the equivalents of constructions with the article in individual texts (p. 357–365), and c) an Old Bulgarian–Greek and Greek–Old Bulgarian dictionary of selected lexemes attested in the material (p. 367–444).

The impact of this publication on the general scholarship on the *Zlatostruy* is indisputable. Furthermore, one cannot underestimate its value for comparative research on language history and textology. It is only to be hoped that in her future research, the author – after such arduous philological work, part of which could not be included in the publication – will resolve to develop the points she had to forego at this stage, and that she will apply the same impressive level of commitment.

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MARCIN BÖHM, *Rola flot obcych w procesie ostatecznego rozkładu sił morskich cesarstwa bizantyńskiego (1118–1204)* [The Role of Foreign Fleets in the Decomposition of the Naval Forces of Byzantium], Napoleon V, Oświęcim 2016, pp. 239.

One of the main areas of interest of Marcin Böhm – a historian of the University of Opole and the author of the reviewed book

– is the fleet in the Middle Byzantine period. He dedicated one of his books so far to this subject, which was based upon his PhD thesis titled:

Flota i polityka morska Aleksego I Komnena. Kryzys bizantyńskiej floty wojennej w XI wieku i jego przezwyciężenie przez Aleksego I Komnena [*Fleet and Marine Policy of Alexios I Komnenos. Crisis of the Byzantine Navy in the 9th Century and its Resolution by Alexios I Komnenos*] and several articles¹. The aim of Böhm's new publication is to depict the process of weakening of the military fleet of the Byzantine Empire, which eventually resulted in its fall during the time of the Fourth Crusade. The author ponders over the causes of such phenomenon, pointing out that the main one was the necessity for the Byzantine forces to confront itself with the fleets of its enemies (Normans, Italian cities, Crusaders) in years 1118–1204.

The book is divided into four main parts. In the first one: *Flota bizantyńska w latach 1118–1204. Nowe zagrożenia i stare problemy* [*The Byzantine Fleet in Years 1118–1204. New Dangers and Old Problems*] (p. 23–48), the author, after defining the phenomenon of the *strangeness* towards the Byzantines shown by their various enemies and allies in the author's sphere of interests (p. 23–33), presents the organization of the imperial fleet and the institutional rules of its functions (p. 33–42), and finally characterizes ships used by the Empire and new tendencies in shipbuilding, which could be observed at this time in northern Europe (p. 42–48).

In the second chapter: *Normanowie* [*Normans*] (p. 49–94), Böhm analyzes a case of Norman-Byzantine struggle in years 1113–1194, from the specific angle concerning the use of naval forces. This chapter was divided into three parts. In the first one the author touches the

period of 1113–1146 (p. 49–64), which marks a rapid development of Norman war fleet, that became a grave danger for the Byzantines, who however stayed passive. In the second part Böhm presents a Norman-Byzantine war of 1147–1158 (p. 64–83), with special attention dedicated to the activity of naval forces, including the Italian expedition of Manuel I Komnenos. Eventually, the final part of this chapter analyzes the use of fleet in Norman-Byzantine relations during the latter years of Manuel I reign as well as Andronicus I Komnenos and Isaac Angelos (p. 83–94)

The third chapter: *Komuny północnej Italii* [*The Communes of North Italy*] (p. 95–131), dedicated to the relations between Byzantines and Venetians, Genoans and Pisans, is divided into two parts. In the first one the author follows the changes in the relations between the Empire and Venice, from cooperation to military confrontation (excluding Venetian participation in the Fourth Crusade) (p. 95–116), and in the second presents the history of Byzantine ties with Genoans and Pisans, whose naval forces were meant to replace Byzantine navy and become a counterbalance to hostile Venetians (p. 116–131).

In the fourth chapter: *Krzyżowcy* [*Crusaders*] (p. 133–182), the author describes naval conflicts of Byzantines against crusaders from Second to the Fourth Crusade (from 1114 to 1204). This chapter is divided into four parts. The first one concerns military actions on the seas during the Second Crusade, the following, Byzantine expedition to Egypt in 1169, third, fighting during the Third Crusade and the last one concerns the fleet engagements during the Fourth Crusade.

The book is supplemented with an *Introduction* (p. 7–21), *Conclusion* (p. 183–188) three annexes (p. 189–202), the first concerning Byzantine river fleets (primarily on the Danube) during the reigns of John and Manuel I Komnenos – *Zapomniany front – rola Dunaju i innych śródlądowych cieków wodnych w działaniach Jana II i Manuela I Komnena wymierzonych w Węgrów i koczowników w latach 1127–1167, w świetle relacji Jana Kinnamosa i Niketasa Choniatesa* [*A Forgotten Front – the Role of*

¹ Among others: *Konstantynopolińska eskadra cesarska w dobie panowania Komnenów (1081–1185)*, [in:] *Miasto na skrzyżowaniu mórz i kontynentów. Wczesno- i średniobizantyński Konstantynopol jako miasto portowe*, ed. M.J. LESZKA, K. MARINOW, Łódź 2016 [= BL, 23], p. 47–62; *Remarks on the History of the Navy of the Empire of Nicaea in the Light of the Chronicle of Georgios Akropolites*, ILSHS 74, 2016, p. 54–57; *The Mediterranean Sea in the maritime Policy of the Byzantine emperors in the VI Century*, ILSHS 6, 2013, p. 75–85; *Transport morski normańskich koni w trakcie działań wojennych Boemunda na Bałkanach w latach 1107–1108*, VP 63, 2015, p. 429–443.

Danube and other inland watercourses in John II and Manuel I Komnenos' operations against Hungarians and nomads in 1127–1167 in the light of John Kinnamos and Niketas Choniates] (p. 189–192), the second contains the prosopography of the commanders of Byzantine naval forces in the years 1118–1204 (p. 193–200) and the third a list of rulers (of Byzantium, Venetia, Antioch, Jerusalem, Apulia, Calabria, Sicilia and Germany). Furthermore, the book features an English summary (p. 203–207), bibliography (p. 209–225), maps and illustrations (p. 226–231) and indexes (p. 232–239).

The author made a thorough and broad analysis of the source material and confronted the results with rich literature. This led to the creation of an interesting and original book that constitutes and attempt at determining the causes for the destruction of Byzantine naval forces in the end of Middle Byzantine period.

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ΤΕΟΦΥΛΑΚΤΟΣ ΣΙΜΟΚΑΤΗΣ, *Οικουμενική ιστορία* / ΤΕΟΦΙΛΑΚΤ ΣΙΜΟΚΑΤΤΑ, *Historia powszechna*, przekład, wstęp, komentarz i indeksy Anna Kotłowska, Łukasz Różycki, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Poznań 2016, pp. 499 [Rhomaioi. Źródła do historii Bizancjum, 7].

Οικουμενική ιστορία by Theophilact Simocatta¹, Byzantine historian and author, writing in first decades of the 7th century, constitutes an invaluable source for learning the history of the Byzantine Empire and its relations with the outside world in years 582–602. Due to

¹ Besides *Οικουμενική ιστορία* Theophilact is an author of several other works, namely *Quaestiones physicae*, *Dialogus de praedestinatione* as well as *Epistulae ethicae rusticatae et amatory*, from which the latter was more popular and, which might be especially interesting for the Polish reader, translated to Latin by Nicolaus Copernicus.

the fact that these years coincide with the time when the emperor Maurice held the throne, Theophilact is considered a chronicler of his reign².

The work of Theophilact is also an important source for the history of Slavic people in the Early Middle Ages, which makes it exceptionally interesting for the Polish audience. Certainly that was one of the reasons why Anna Kotłowska and Łukasz Różycki, two Polish scholars

² M. WHITBY, *The Emperor Maurice and his Historian Theophylact Simocatta on Persian and Balkan Warfare*, Oxford 1988.