

## REVIEW

**By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dochka Ivanova Aladzhova** - National Archaeological Institute with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, member of the Academic Board according to Order № RD -140 / 24.09. 2021 of the Rector of Episcop Konstantin Preslavski Shumen University in connection with the defense of the dissertation on *Thaler coins in the Bulgarian lands in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century* by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krassimir Todorov Krastev for obtaining the degree of Doctor of sciences in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, professional field: 2.2. History and archeology, scientific specialty: Archaeology (Numismatics)

**With the presented dissertation on *Thaler coins in the Bulgarian lands in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century* Associate Professor Dr. Krassimir Todorov Krastev** participates in the procedure for the defense of the scientific degree of Doctor of Science based on a decision of the FC of FHN (Protocol № FD -02- 01 / 1.09.2021), in accordance with Art. 13, para. 1 of ZRASRB, art. 38, Art. 39, para. 1 and 2 of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of Shumen University and in connection with a report of the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.

The proposed study is on a topic scarcely presented in the Bulgarian historiography, and the available publications in most cases comment on individual coin finds - single or hoards. The lack of analysis and topography of the discovered numismatic materials does not allow to clarify the origin of the the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century coin circulation in today's Bulgarian territories. The coin circulation in the Ottoman Empire during the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries is characterized by a number of specifics directly related to the use of denominations from different countries. In this regard, it is indisputable that the topic of the study is dissertable and relevant, and the results obtained provide additional information about the period and its coin circulation, which is a contribution not only locally but also in Europe.

The dissertation presented includes: Preface, Review of sources and historiography; seven chapters; Addendum, Abbreviations, Bibliography and a Conclusion. The organization of the structure corresponds to the topic of the study, as well as to the requirements for this type of research.

The aim of the author is to outline the position of today's Bulgarian territories within the European processes of numismatic, economic, historical and political aspect related to the price revolution, the emergence of large silver coins of a value equal to the golden ducat and florin, etc. In today's Bulgarian territories under Ottoman domination, this resulted in the gradual

displacement of domestic Ottoman denominations from the market, to the complete disappearance of the copper mangel and a significant reduction in the number of akçes. Thus, the trust in the Ottoman coins (excluding golden denominations) on the part of the population - Christian and Muslim - decreased. The process has been uncontrollable for more than a century (after the crisis of 1585) to deal with the massive influx of European thaler coins. After all, the state took almost no adequate measures to deal with the economy and the political situation; on the contrary, it accepted the regular payment of taxes and state fees with foreign thaler coins. The chronological scope of the study presented is related to the emergence and spread of the thaler and thaler coins (larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  thaler) in our lands under Ottoman rule. Therefore, the marking of the beginning and end dates of the survey are largely conditional, so it is more correct to accept the participation of thaler coins as a process rather than as a fixed chronological act. Moreover, in the beginning they were only local coins with almost no significance for the international trade. It was not until the first three decades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century that the thaler was recognized by many countries and began to spread to more and more of them. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the most popular foreign silver coins in the previous two centuries, the Dutch leventhaler and the Spanish 8 real coin, gradually began to disappear. New coins, unknown until then, also appeared. In the first place among them were the Russian silver and copper coins. Their entry into the coin circulation of the Empire was at first modest, in very small amounts, but over time it became a regular means, although not particularly in abundance.

The entry of thaler coins into the Bulgarian lands was a long and complicated process. In the Ottoman Empire, the idea of a large silver coin developed very slowly. In practice, this was happening after a long period of crises and shocks, during which there were almost no adequate fiscal measures. This large Ottoman silver coin appeared about two centuries later than the European thalers. It has not been established with certainty what the reasons were and what provoked the introduction of kuruş.

The large amount in circulation of silver and golden coins of various countries and rulers creates considerable difficulties in daily payments and larger commercial transactions. Some of the coins had stable images that hardly changed significantly over time.

Assoc. Prof. Krassimir Krastev has managed to develop the announced topic processing and analyzing a large amount of empirical material, some of which is unknown so far in the academic literature. The cited bibliographic resource shows knowledge of the topic and its specifics.

The reference presented by Assoc. Prof. Krassimir Krastev shows that he has fulfilled the minimum national requirements according to the Law and there are no violations of the Regulations, as the required deadlines have been met.

The abstract correctly reflects the content of the dissertation.

On the topic of the dissertation Assoc. Prof. Krastev has published in scientific series and collections 9 scientific articles and 1 study in which he developed problems of coinage from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries on the basis of individual coin finds or established trends in the distribution of thalers in some areas in today's Bulgarian lands.

**Having in mind the qualities of the work presented and its contributions, I recommend the Academic Board to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krassimir Todorov Krastev the academic degree of Doctor of Sciences.**

21. 11. 2021

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dochka Aladzhova

