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Bulgarian Archaeologists Find Relics of Medieval Saint at Perperikon

The team of Bulgarian archaeologist, Professor Nikolay Ovcharov, has discovered relics of a medieval saint at the fortress of Perperikon in the Rhodope Mountains. The remains of human bones were found inside one of two bronze crosses as the archaeologists were excavating two churches. One of the crosses is larger and has an image of the crucified Christ on its front, with an image of Virgin Mary praying on its reverse: dating to the 10th-11th century. The second, smaller cross, adorned with geometric motifs, is dated to 5th-7th century. Unfortunately there were no inscriptions that would lead to the identification of the remains. Perperikon, though, was one of the most important centers of Christianity in the entire region. Ovcharov's hypothesis is that the church at Perperikon was the first church built by Bishop Niketa in that region and that it was a bishopric from the 4th to the 14th century. The archaeologists have discovered a number of bronze, gold, and silver crosses, as well as a number of seals.



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