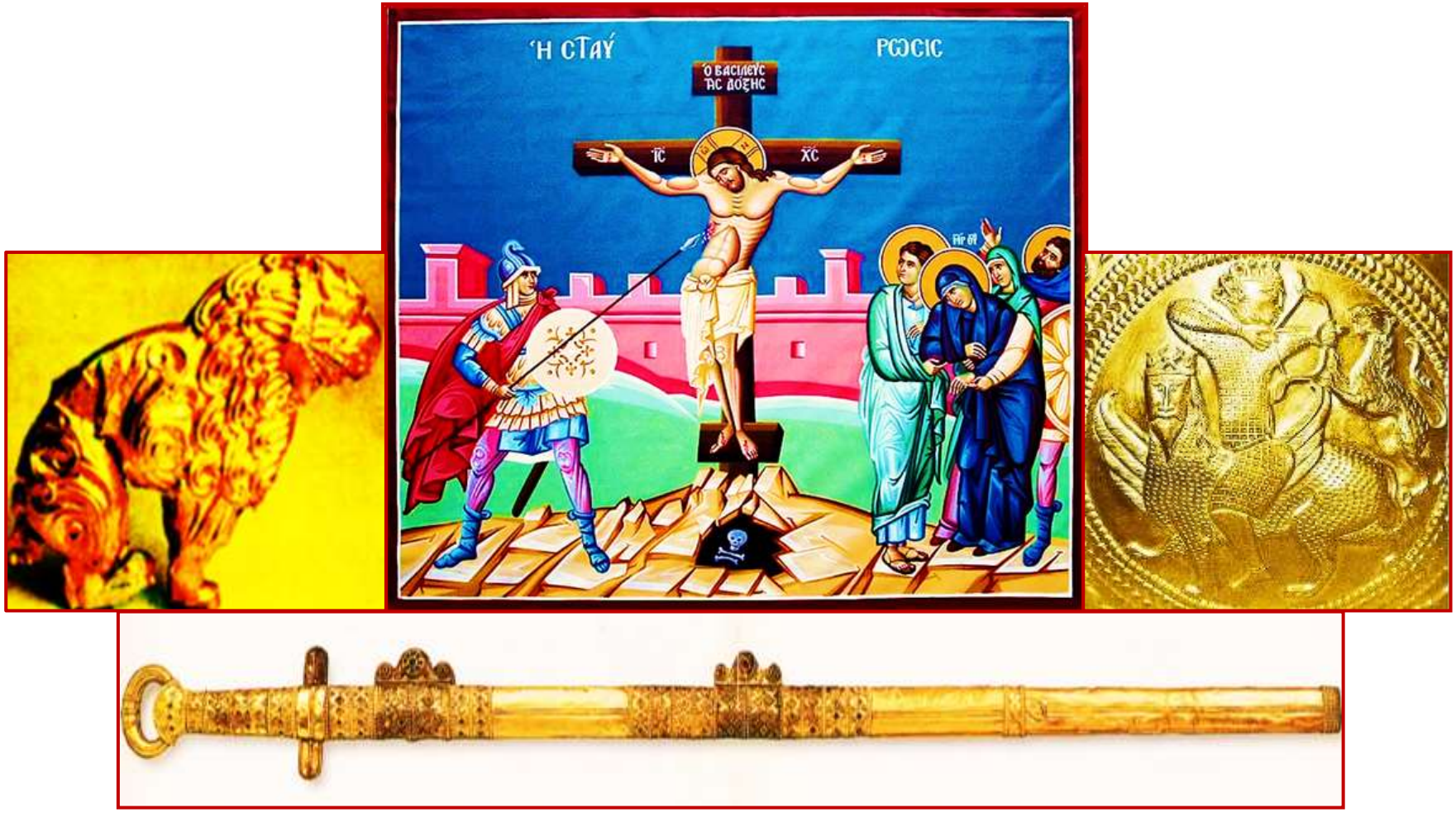


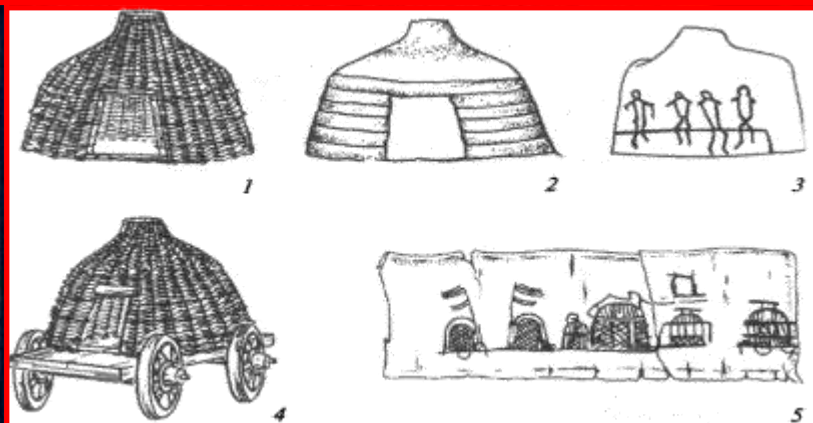
Ivan Dobrev

THE GOLDEN TREASURES OF THE BULGARIANS WHO SAVED THE HOLY CROSS OF THE LORD

The homeland of the Bulgarian tribes and peoples is the steppe Minusinsk hollow, which has dimensions of approximately 600x400 km or an area of 240,000 square km. Here, even before the end of the 4th millennium BC, the Bulgarian clans and families that broke away from the Neolithic-primitive Proto-Turkic horde of hunters and fruit-pickers at Nord of Sayan-Altai mountain massif were migrated, concentrated and consolidated like a separate Bulgarian tribe under the leadership of a single supreme leader, elected in principle by the elders of clans and heads of families.

The Bulgarians are mainly cattle breeders in their homeland, but in addition to that, they are also farmers. As early as the Bronze Age, towards the end of the 3rd and the beginning of the 4th millennium BC, they cultivate the land with a hoe, reap their harvest with a bronze sickle and build irrigation canals. The horse becomes an important element of the stock-breeding economy. The bronze objects and tools are cast in special molds.

The Bulgarians build and live in permanent wooden houses here, while they use portable tents during their taking the cattle to pastures.



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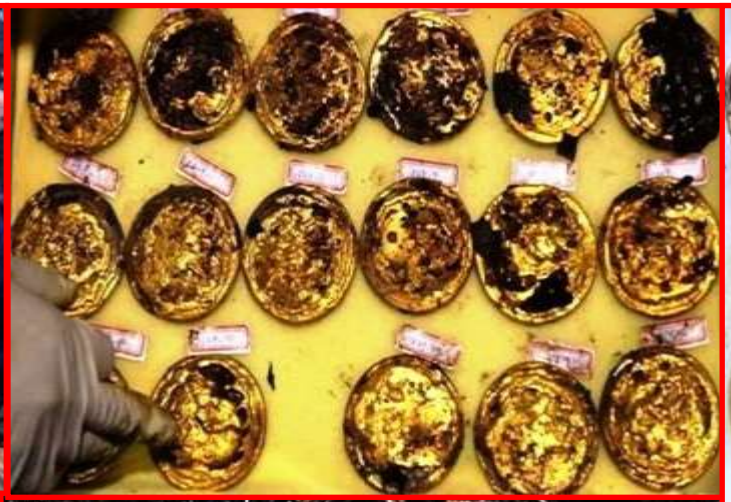
During the Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages the Bulgarian tribes and peoples numbered thirty. They spread and settled compactly, first in the lands of today's Mongolia and China, then in Central Asia, then in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe, also as well as in the Balkans and Central Europe, i.e. on the vast territory between the Baikal-Altai line in the northeast and the Balkans-Central Europe line in the southwest, and sporadically isolated on the Korean Peninsula, the Japanese islands, Tibet, Indochina, the Middle East, Asia Minor, the Apennines, England, Ireland and Scandinavia peninsula or more generally, from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean from east to west and from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean from north to south.

Since ancient times, the Bulgarians have had a great deal of gold, which they consume mainly for jewelry on their own and horses, as well as for tableware. The gold is an essential and integral part of the Bulgarian folk psychology, because until the middle of the last century in many parts of Bulgaria a young girl cannot go to dance unless there is a necklace or tiara of gold coins.

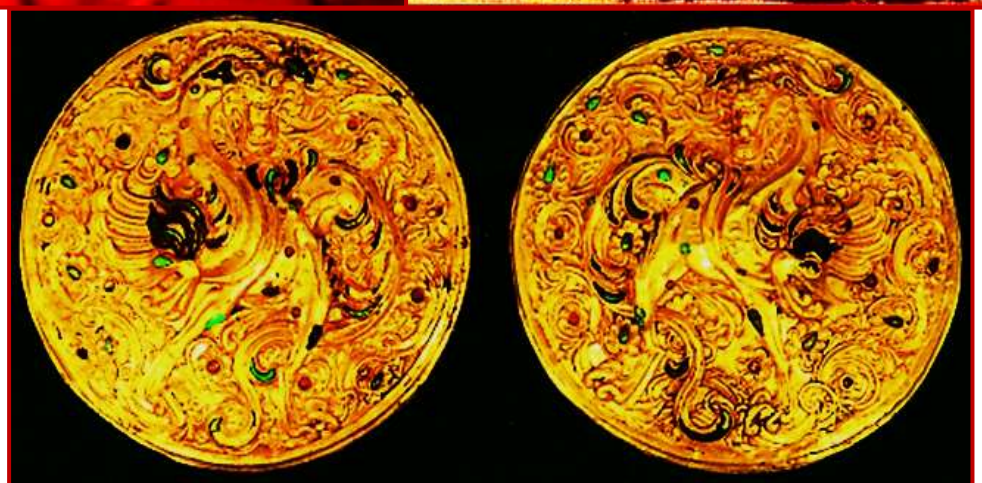
The semi-processed or processed gold is received mainly by the Bulgarians as a tax from the subordinate or neighboring peoples and states, as well as a battle trophy from the wars they wage or in which they participate as allies.

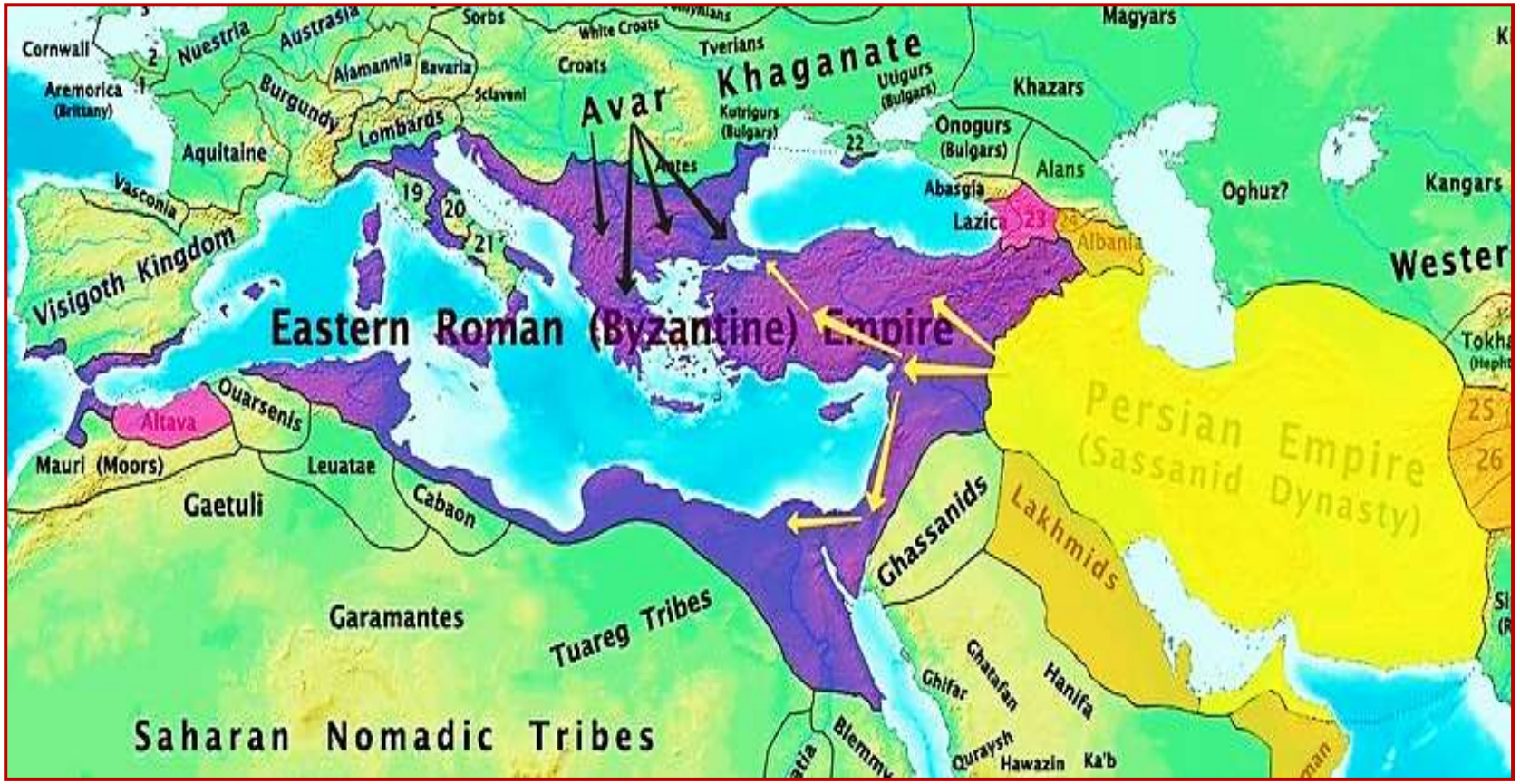
Chinese archaeologists have found the 2,000-year-old king's treasure.

The treasure, which consists entirely of gold coins and items, includes coins, gold bars, jade necklaces and solid gold items. The Jiangxi provincial government decided to build a 7-kilometer memorial park on behalf of the Xiongnu Haihun State (206 BC).



Five or six centuries BC, the Inner Asia Bulgarians start also processing gold in the original Bulgarian Animal Style. They mostly make decorations and applications for attire and their horses from it. The crowns of Bulgarian rulers from Inner Asia in Late Antiquity have no analogy in any culture or civilization in the World.

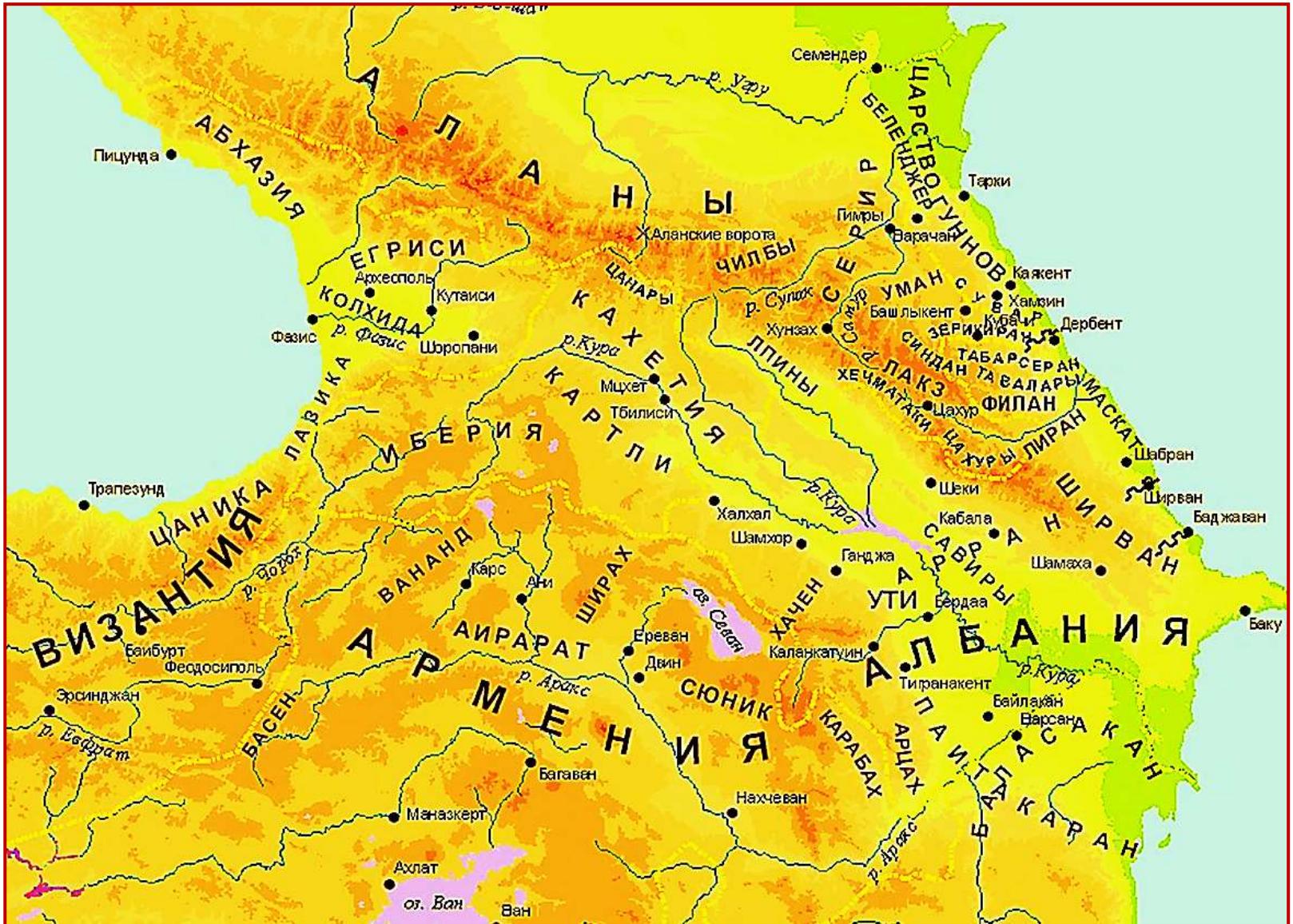




The Byzantine-Sassanid War of 622-628 was the final and most devastating of the series of wars fought between the Roman (Byzantine) Empire and the Sasanide Empire. Hile the Persians proved largely successful during the first stage of the war from 602 to 622, conquering much of the Levant, Egypt, and parts of Anatolia, the ascendancy of Heraclius in 610 eventually led to the Persians' defeat, despite initial setbacks. Heraclius' campaigns into Persian lands from 622 to 628 altered the balance, forcing the Persians on the defensive and allowing the Byzantines to regain momentum.

During the war of 614-615, after a twenty-day siege, the Persians captured Jerusalem, tore down its walls, looted the city, looted, set fire to and destroyed all Christian temples, including the Temple of the Holy Sepulcher, decorated with priceless marble and mosaics; during a three-day massacre, about 60,000 people were killed and 35,000 were taken prisoner, including the mayor, the patriarch and the guardian of the Holy Cross. Torturing them most severely and killing a large number of clergymen by beheading, they finally found the previously hidden the Holy Cross of the Lord, placed it in chests, along with many gold and silver church vessels and utensils, jewels, expensive clothes and objects, and took it away, and hide in the newly built treasury at the capital Ctesiphon.

By the beginning of the 7th century, the main part of the Bulgarian Hunk-Hungar tribe, more known as Onogurs, was centered on the north-west coastal steppes of Caspian Sea and within the borders of its own state, known in the latest scientific literature as the Huns Kingdom, and along the Kura Valley is the Principality of Sabirs.



In 595-599 and during the time of the Byzantine emperor Maurice (582-603) the head of the proto-Bulgarian kingdom located on the Northwestern Caspian Sea Khan Organá arrived in Constantinople with a large retinue of dignitaries with their wives. In an extremely solemn atmosphere, they were all baptized and received expensive gifts.

Prince Kurt-Kubrat was born between 585-587 and when he was 10-12 years old, Khan Organá left his nephew in Constantinople as a hostage guarantor of peace between Bulgarians and Romans.

Here the prince lived in the imperial palace, and studied and educated at the university at the Magnaur Palace, where his classmate was the future emperor Heraclius (610-641), with whom he personally established a warmest friendly relations. The young prince left Constantinople in 603-605, when he was already 15-17 years old.

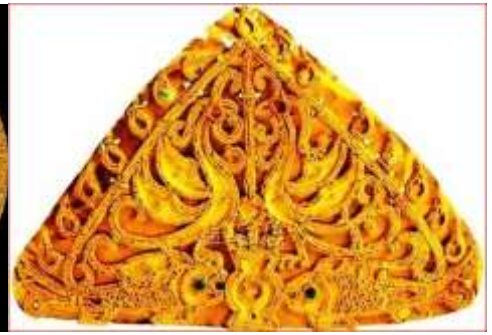
Inheriting after his death his uncle Khan Organá, Khan Kubrat defeated and drove away the Avars; in 632 he liberated the Caucasian Bulgarians from the vassality to the Western Turks; unites and stands at the head of the proto-Bulgarian clans and tribes of the Caucasus and thus founded the polyethnic empire military-tribal confederation Παλαιά Μεγάλη Βουλγαρία-Old Great Bulgaria.

Old Great Bulgaria is the largest country in Europe in terms of territory and population, and therefore the most powerful and influential of all, and Khan Kubrat himself is one of the most authoritative and popular figures in Europe after the first half of the 7th century, and even to our time.

Khan Kubrat reigned until his death in 665, so he lived a total of 78-80 years.

Fredegarius describes Heraclius as “handsome, tall, braver than others and a fighter.” He had matured with those characteristics by the time that he reached Africa. Fredegarius adds that being “well-read” Heraclius practiced astrology. Another Latin tradition transmitted by the Carolingian scholar Hrabanus Maurus reports that Heraclius was “vir armis strenuus, lingua eruditus, corpore decorus, et quamvis saeculari actui deditus, totus tamen erat fide catholicus; et ergo Dei cultoribus supplex, benevolus ac devotus.” It is probable that Heraclius used his public speaking ability in Africa, but how well he had developed it before coming to Africa, or what form it took in Africa, where Latin was the dominant public tongue, is unknown. Hrabanus’ list of attributes may simply be stock descriptions of what one expected in a good emperor.

Heraclius undertook the last and decisive military campaign against Persia in 621-622, seeking the help of the Bulgarians. Through a special envoy to Khan Organá, he begged him most urgently and offered the Bulgarians for a fee to help in the war with the Persians. At a meeting held on the territory of the Bulgarians at noon, the khan accepted the proposal of Heraclius and provided him with a 40,000-strong army of heavy cavalry with siege equipment, at the head of which he appointed his nephew Prince Kubrat as commander in chief. The composition of this army also includes the Sabirs, who have been known in the Caucasus since the beginning of the 6th century and have long fought as the bravest warriors, leaving behind even the ancient Greek heroes in military strength, courage and audacity. The Sabirs are also militarily and technically first among the other tribes and peoples.

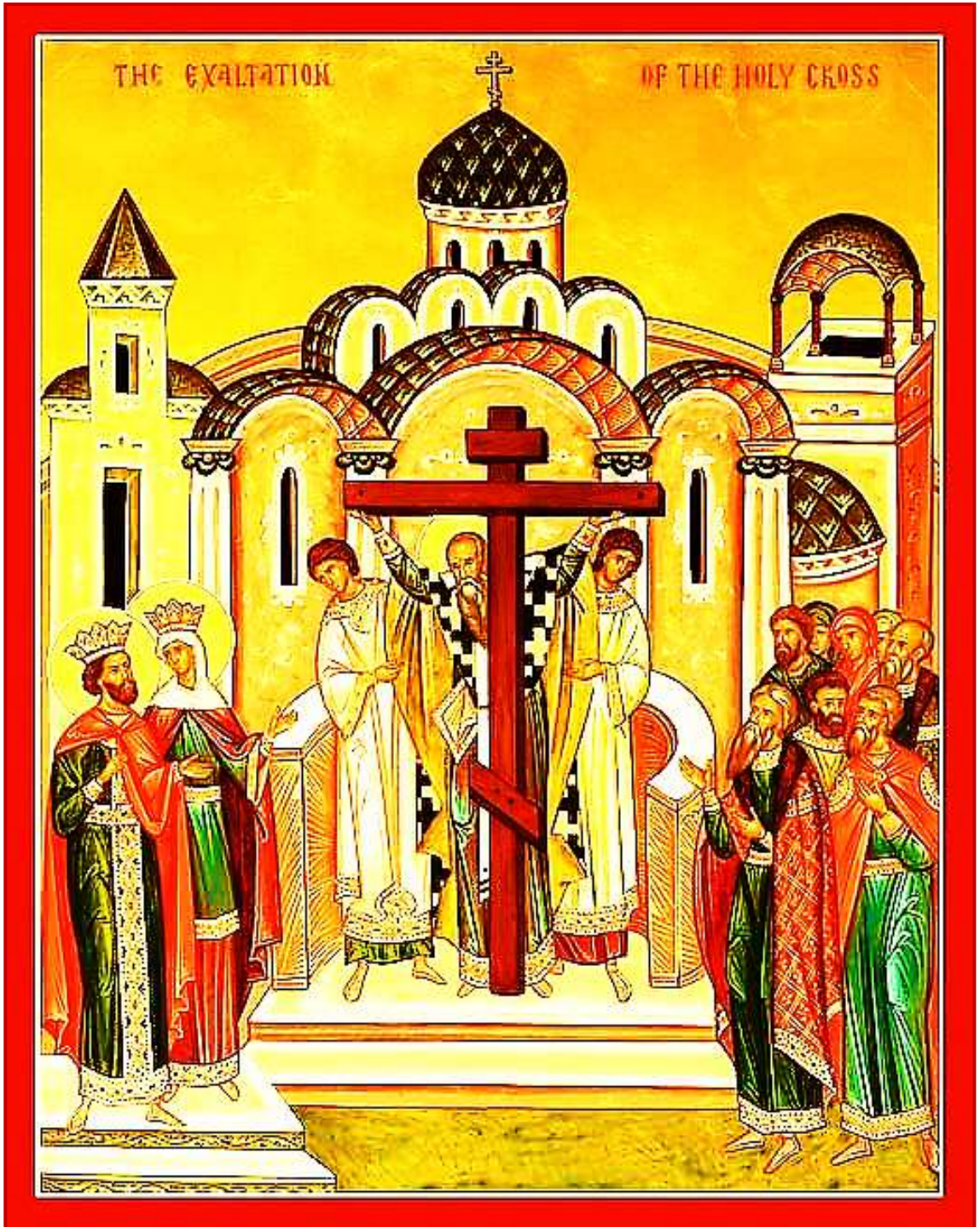


During the first military-administrative reform in the Turkut Khaganate in 572-581, the Bulgarian khan of the Caucasus, Orghaná, was appointed Yabgu Kagan, i.e. co-manager or deputy. In 605, the Western Turks reorganized their two wings from tribal associations, at the head of which they appointed shads or princes as commanders-in-chief. They appointed Prince Kubrat as a shad of the western military-tribal union. He completely independently announced a general mobilization, recruited his army from all tribes and peoples of the Caucasus and Western Central Asia, planned, led and personally on the front line took the most active part in hostilities, while conducting a punitive military campaign deeply in the territory of Sassanid Persia.

Thanks to the Bulgarians, the Persians were not only completely defeated, and the Zoroastrian sanctuaries overflowing with innumerable treasures in the temple city of Shiza and the royal residence of Dastakerd were conquered, but the capital Ctesiphon was besieged and conquered. Here Khan Kubrat personally discovered the Holy Cross of the Lord, which had been abducted by the Persians, and handed it over to Heraclius, who later returned it and placed it in its place in Jerusalem.

The Greek-Bulgarian coalition war with the Persians was a Holy War in the form of a crusade. The Bulgarians are the first crusaders of the World and have the greatest merit and contribution to the whole Christian world and civilization, because they are the ones who bear the main burden and decide the outcome of the war. Today, we Bulgarians, in no way and for no reason, should not forget that glorious epoch of our native, Bulgarian history and we can and should be rightfully proud that we have saved the Holy Cross of the Lord and returned it to all Christians, around the World, including themselves!

Precisely because of all this, in 635, Heraclius awarded Khan Kubrat with the prestigious Roman title of patrician, and during the solemn ceremony he was given invaluable gifts.


THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS

Near the present-day Poltava village of Malaya Pereschepina in Ukraine is buried the ancestor of all European Bulgarians, the great Bulgarian, the Consul General of Constantinople and the Roman patrician Khan Kurt-Kubrat (†665); the founder and long-time ruler of the Caucasian Proto-Bulgarian Empire, Old Great Bulgaria, which is the second European Bulgarian state after the West Hun Empire of Atilla the Bulgarian, and the earlier one of New Great Bulgaria of Khan Asparuh; one of the most significant figures in Asia and Europe since the first half of the 7th century; a brave warrior crusader, a great commander, a skilful diplomat, the richest and most influential emperor of the entire then world, from the Chinese Empire to the east and the Roman Empire to the west; the Bulgarian ruler who dared to oppose the strongmen of the West Turkic and Avar Kaganates of the day; he defeated the mighty Sasanian-Persian Empire, prevented the death of the great Byzantine Empire and saved the Holy Cross of the Lord from Persian captivity.

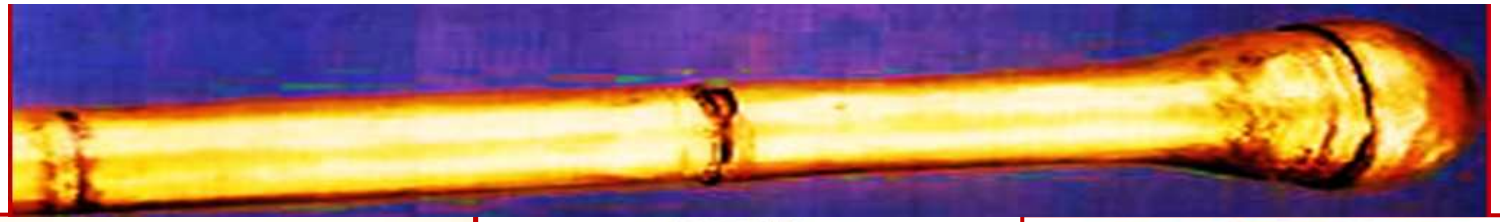
Found in the tomb of Khan Kubrat, exquisite magnificent gold and silver vessels, a gold-plated sword with a wide leather belt, the sole of which is almost 0.5 kg of solid gold, the gold rings with his monogram and all other gold and silver objects, jewelry, ornaments and coins weighing 25 kg for gold and 50 kg for silver, more than 800 in number and in all, are the largest, richest and most unique in the World silver and gold treasure, widely known also like the famous treasure from Malaya Pereshchepina, they are also a masterpieces of the Proto-Bulgarian, Persian and Byzantine goldsmiths.

All the silver and gold objects and articles from the tomb of Khan Kubrat he has them and owns as his own heritage from the previous Bulgarian khans (33); as a battle trophy acquired personally by him with a weapon in his hand during battles with the Persians (34-35); as gifts mainly from the Byzantine emperors and empresses (35-39), and as invaluable works of art at the atelier in his court (43-46).

The meal dish of the king of Persia Shapur II (309-379) was a gift from the king of Chionits Grumbat, and was thus passed on to the Dulo khans until he reached Khan Kubrat. The ancient Achaemenid women's gold bracelets, which were also transmitted between the Dulo khans, are a heritage of many ancient times.

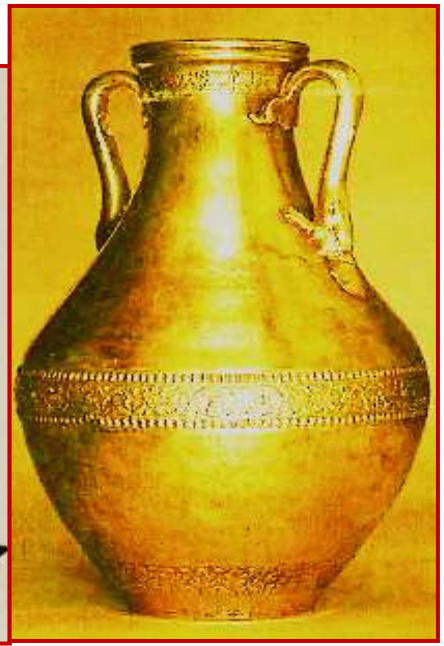
Hereditary to Khan Kubrat of Khan Organá are the gold ring with the inscription *Ορχανου Πατρικου* and twenty-one silver and gold glasses.

The Sasanian artifacts in the treasure from Malaya Pereschepina are a battle trophy of Khan Kubrat and his warlords from the Greek-Bulgarian coalition war against the Persians. Here is the golden royal scepter of Khosrov II. In the same way, a few more silver and gold jars, a gold dining platter, a silver bowl, and a gold bowl were acquired.



During his separation from his sons, Khan Kubrat gave the six ritual jugs battle trophy from the conquest of the Zoroastrian temple city of Shiza to Khan Asparuh.

The silver washing set, given to Prince Kubrat by the Emperor of Maurice when he arrived in Constantinople. Along with this set, the emperor gave him a gilded silver amphora for water.

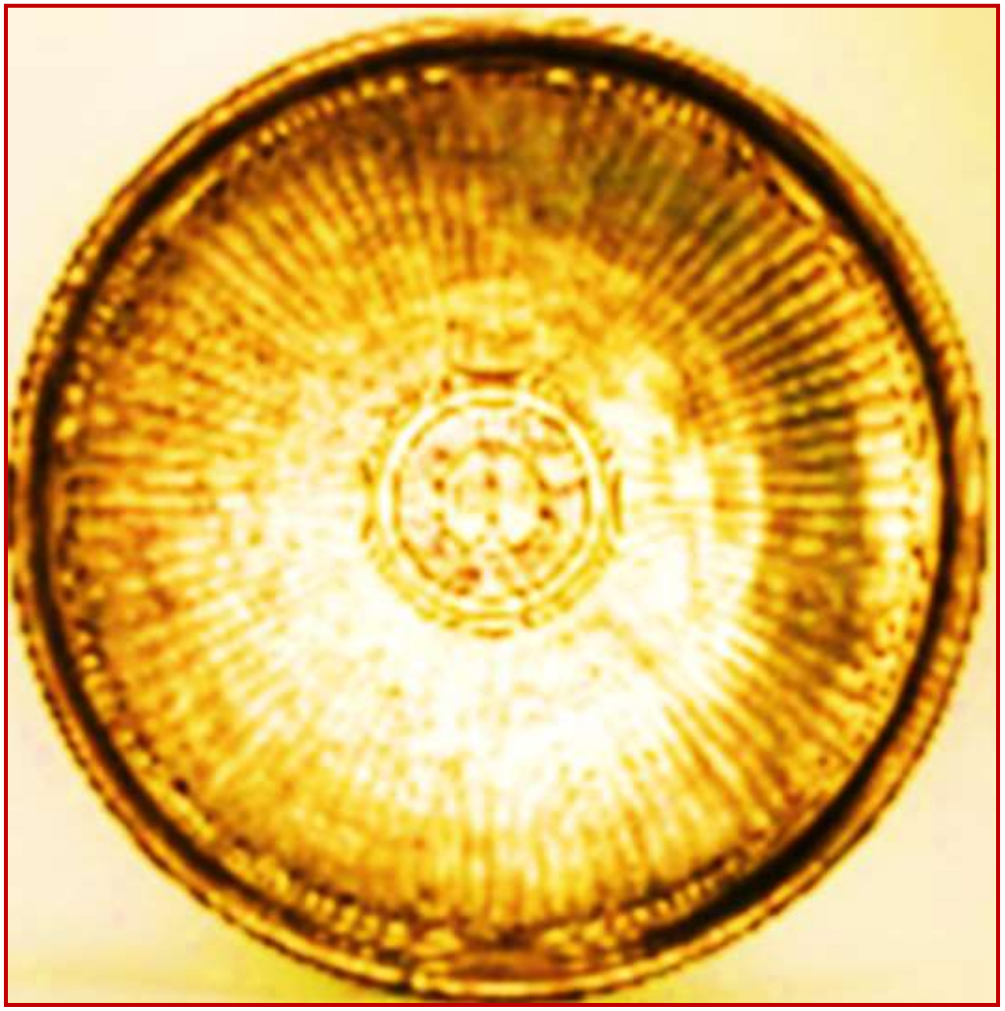


The gold ring with the inscription *Χουβρατου* was a gift from Emperor Heraclius during their meeting in the spring of 624. During the ceremony in 635 for his Roman Patrician title, Khan Kubrat was honored with a parade sword hung on belt with a very beautiful buckle, a gold ring with the inscription *Χουβρατου Πατρικου* and a gold coin necklace on the discus of the Bishop of Tommy, today's Constanta.

ΕΥΦΡΑΙΝΕΤΩ ΟΥΡΑΝΟΣ ΤΕΡΠΕΣΘΩ ΓΗ ΕΠΙ ΣΟΙ ΘΑΛΛΟΥΣΑ ΔΙΚΗ ΕΠΙ ΣΟΙ ΔΕ ΘΕΟΙ ΠΑΝΤΕΣ ΕΠΙ ΣΟΙ ΔΕ ΚΑΘΗΜΕΝΟΙ ΕΣΣΟΝΤΑΙ ΕΠΙ ΣΟΙ ΔΕ ΚΑΘΗΜΕΝΟΙ ΕΣΣΟΝΤΑΙ ΕΠΙ ΣΟΙ ΔΕ ΚΑΘΗΜΕΝΟΙ ΕΣΣΟΝΤΑΙ

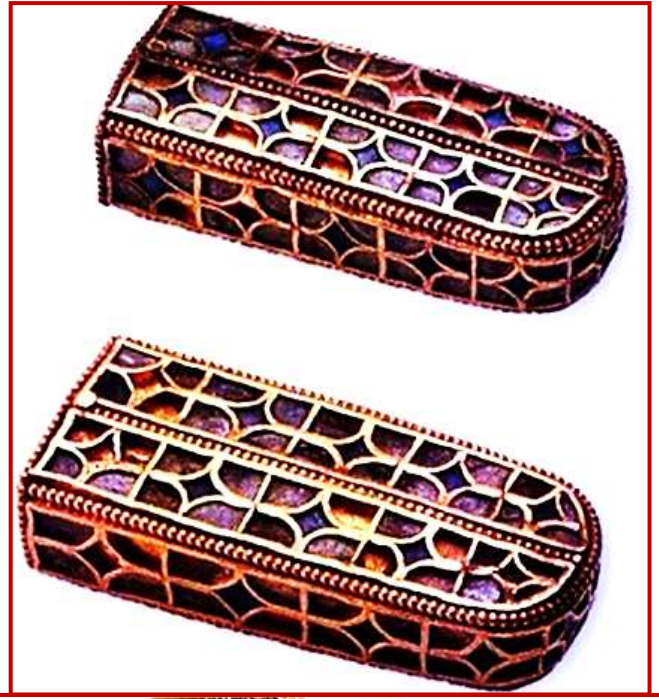
During the same ceremony, the diadem was placed on the forehead of Khan Kubrat, and on his hands were placed the gold bracelets with exquisite emeralds, which were a gift from Empress Martina.

At the end of January 642, Khan Kubrat arrived in Constantinople and negotiated with the emperors and Martina. Then they offered him a necklace of gold coins on a Christian cross tray.

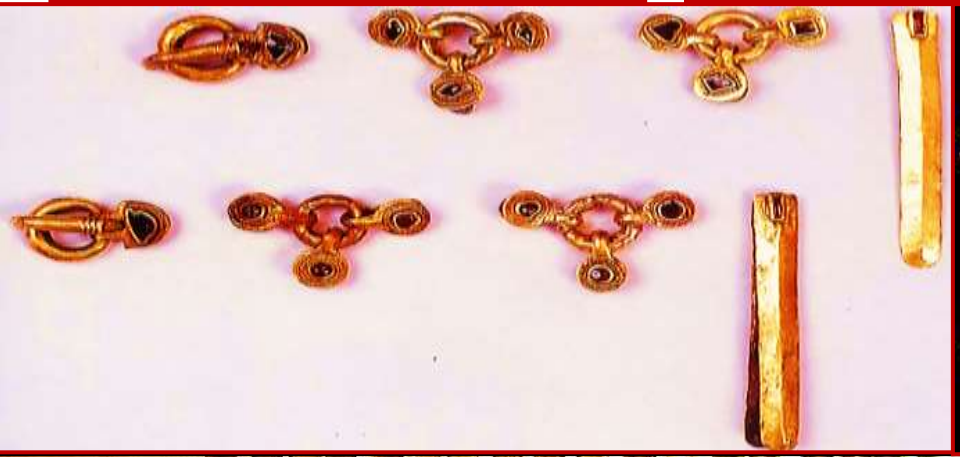


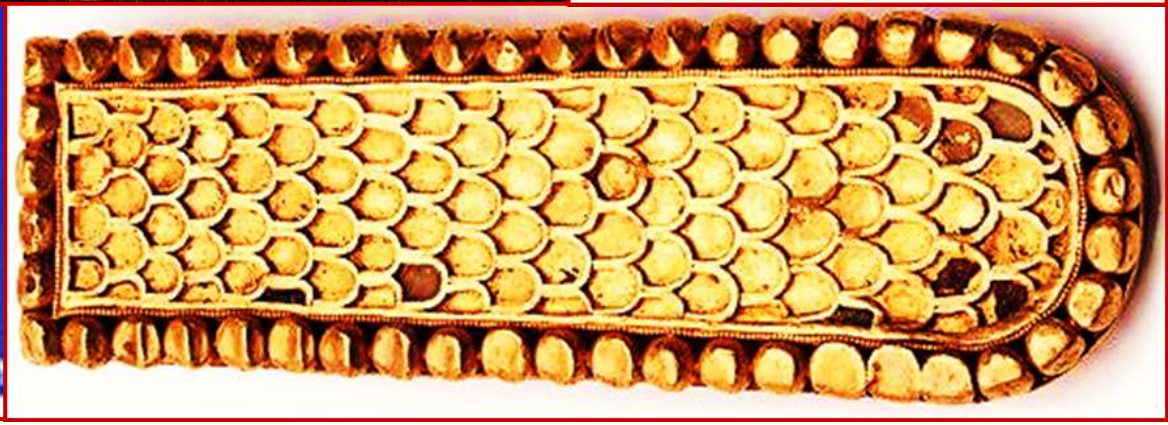
The first stage of the development of Bulgarian goldsmith's applied art in Europe begins from the end of the 4th century and continues until the end of the 6th century. It is characterized by the workmanship of gold products of extremely high artistic value.

The second stage of the development of Bulgarian goldsmith's applied art in Europe began in the first quarter of the 7th century with the manufacture of gold products in the atelier at the court of Khan Kubrat.



Together with the gold artifacts produced in the atelier in the court of Khan Kubrat and at the atelier in the court of Khan Asparuh, as well as those from the funerals in Voznesenka, Glodossi, Kellegay, etc. all the way to Kunbaboni and Nagyszéksós in the territory of present-day Hungary, they are all Proto-Bulgarian and form a homogeneous and unified Bulgarian cultural circle, because they are from the funerals of Bulgarians participating in the Greco-Persian wars or their heirs.





The second stage continued until the middle of the 10th century with the manufacture in Veliki Preslav of some of the gold products from the Preslav Treasure. Within its boundaries remains the goldsmith's production in the court of Khan Asparuh before and in Pliska. The world-famous jug of Khan Omurtag from the Bulgarian Golden Treasure from Nagy Saint-Miklós is also made in Pliska.