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Byzantine seals from Aqua Kalide – Termopolis

Fifteen kilometers northwest of Burgas are located the most famous thermal baths in the southeastern Thrace. Since antiquity, the unique combination of thermal water and the healing mud from the Atanasovsko Lake and the salty sea water are used for medical treatment. Bogdan Filov is the scientist who made the first archaeological excavations in 1910. The Archaeological Reserve “Aqua Kalide-Termopolis” was founded after the beginning of a significant excavation in the area of the baths. A new stage of the project has started in 2012. It concerns the activities not only of excavation, but also of restoration, preservation and socialization. The aim is to bring together all the finds from the excavations to be displayed at a new museum complex with a visitor centre. The excavations are conducted by Assistant professor Dr. Dimcho Momchilov and Dr. Tsonya Drazheva.

Among other finds 20 lead seals were found in Aqua Kalide, which are in the focus of this current paper.

For now several seals are decipherable:

1. Alexios Komnenos, sebastos and domestikos (1078-1081)
2. Petros, patrikios and domestikos of the Schools of the West (971-?)
3. Symbatikos Glabas, protospatharios and topoteretes (middle of the 11th c.)
- 4-5. Theodoros, archibishop of Anchialos (second half of the 11th c.)
6. Theodoulos, protospatharios, excactor and judge of Drougoubiteia (40-50 of the 11th c.)
7. Patrikia Doukaina (11th c.)
8. Nikephoros (according his gold sign-ring from the 11th c.)
9. Constantine – metrical seal from the end of the 11th c.
10. Anonymous iconographical seal from the end of the 11th c.
11. Anonymous seal with metrical text from the end of the 11th c.
12. Nicholas protospatharios... (10th c.)