

### Summary

#### PORTRAITS OF VUKAN NEMANJIĆ ON SERBIAN FRESCOES OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Portraits of Serbian historical figures on frescoes, created in the Middle Ages are important historical sources because they allow us to learn what these people looked like. Grand Prince Vukan Nemanjić, the eldest son of grand župan Stefan Nemanja, was rarely painted on frescoes in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Several of his portraits remained till nowadays. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, his portraits were painted on the north wall of the tower of the western entrance to the Studenica monastery; in the composition of frescoes which illustrates the events from the Life of Saint Simeon, in the southern chapels dedicated to this saint in Studenica, Sopoćani and Gradac monastery; and perhaps in the founder's composition over the sarcophagus of Stefan Nemanja in Studenica monastery. Portraits from the wall of the tower in Studenica, two scenes from southern chapel in Studenica and one scene from the southern chapel in Sopoćani are fragmentarily preserved. The portrait which was painted on the wall of the tower of the main entrance to Studenica monastery was created during Vukan's life, that is why it represents the most credible depiction of his character. Unfortunately, this portrait is fragmentarily preserved, so his physical appearance cannot be fully revealed.

**Keywords:** *Vukan Nemanjić, portraits, fresco painting, 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Nemanjić's family.*