

To: Emil Nankov, Academic Director
American Research Center in Sofia

Date: November 9, 2014

Re: Bulgarian Studies Association 2014 Book Prize Award

Dear Mr. Nankov,

The Bulgarian Studies Association is pleased to announce that Elena Kostova's book, *Medieval Melnik from the Late Twelfth to the Late Fourteenth Centuries: Historical Vicissitudes of a Small Balkan Town*, Sofia: ARCS, 2013, was selected the winner of John D. Bell 2014 Memorial Book Prize.

In argument of their decision, the Book Prize committee states: "This meticulously-researched book is one of a very few comprehensive studies of medieval Balkan urban settlements. Its subject is the historical evolution of Melnik, a small but strategically located town, as it passed continually from hand to hand among the Bulgarian, Byzantine and Nicean Empires, Serbia, and a series of local overlords. Based on primary sources, and focusing in particular on the political and ecclesiastical development of the region that Melnik was a part of, *Medieval Melnik* is a valuable contribution not only to Bulgarian history, but also to the understanding of medieval urbanism in general."

The Bulgarian Studies Association is grateful to ARCS for publishing such a fine scholarship and wishes you success in your future endeavors.

Respectfully,



Dr. Vessela S. Warner
President, Bulgarian Studies Association

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