

## **The Edict of Serdica (AD 311): Concepts and Realizations of the Idea of Religious Toleration**



*Interdisciplinary Conference, Sofia, Bulgaria, April 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

The conference is connected with the celebrations, in 2011, of the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the issuance of Serdica Edict of Religious Toleration (April 30<sup>th</sup>, 311 AD). In the celebration of the event involved are Sofia Municipality, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Ministry of Culture, and All-Bulgarian Foundation TANGRA TanNakRa. It is the purpose of the conference to focus, in the year following the noteworthy jubilee of Serdica Edict and before the celebration of 1700 years of the so-called Edict of Milan (313 AD), on the ever topical issues of:

- what it means for a government and society to be tolerant;
- when and why crises occur, where it is crucial that the limits of toleration should be strictly delineated or reformulated so as to suggest ways out of the situation;

Thus outlined, the broad framework of the conference allows for the participation of experts in history, Church history, archaeology, history of legal studies, philosophy, urbanism, architecture, history of art, gender studies, to mention only a few. The participants can focus on some of the following thematic areas, without being obliged to confine therein:

- Religious policy of the rulers of the Tetrarchy;
- Impact of the dislocation of power on urbanism in the Late Empire;
- The Edict of Serdica of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 311 AD;
- Between the Edict of Serdica and the Edict of Milan – the Battle of the Milvian Bridge (October 28<sup>th</sup>, 312 AD) and the theme of the Victory of the Cross in historiography, rhetoric and art;
- The so-called Edict of Milan 313 AD (facts and interpretations);
- The first Church councils and their impact on reformulation of the Christian ideas of toleration. Relation between Catholics and heretics in the rhetoric and everyday life at the time of Constantine the Great and in the ages to follow;
- Changes in the relation between the Church and the State following the rule of Theodosius I and Theodosius II;
- Bulgaria's contribution to preserving and promoting the image of Serdica–Sredets–Sofia as a city symbolizing tolerance;

Please, send your abstracts (200 words) and short CVs to the following e-mail address: [serdicaedict@gmail.com](mailto:serdicaedict@gmail.com) before **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

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