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**On the Etymology of the Middle Bulgarian Anthroponyms АСѢНЬ (Asĕn) and БѢЛГѢНЬ (Bĕlgun)**

**Abstract:** The present article addresses the etymology of two Middle Bulgarian anthroponyms, АСѢНЬ (Asĕn) and БѢЛГѢНЬ (Bĕlgun). The Turkic hypothesis of their origin is critically considered and refuted because of phonetic and semantic discrepancies. On the basis of recently discovered ancient documents, the evidence of medieval sources, especially the correspondence between Tsar Kaloyan and Pope Innocentius III and analysis of early medieval Bulgarian anthroponyms, arguments in favor of a Romance hypothesis for the origin of both anthroponyms are suggested.

**Keywords:** Turkic (Kipchak) hypothesis; Romance hypothesis; anthroponyms АСѢНЬ (Asĕn); БѢЛГѢНЬ (Bĕlgun)

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