



The Face of the Seal



"Mother of God, lend Thy aid. Tervel, Caesar."

THE SEAL OF TERVEL

A Documentary Film by Plamen Petkov

Ruler of Bulgaria · Caesar of Byzantium · A Saint

In 718 AD, the cavalry of Bulgarian ruler Tervel broke the Arab siege of Constantinople and preserved the course of European civilization. The single lead seal bearing the only surviving portrait of the remarkable ruler lies locked in a vault in Washington, D.C. A scientist sounds the alarm: this unique artifact is on the brink of self-destruction - and the secrets it has kept for 1,300 years may disappear forever. This is the astonishing story of a seal - and of the ruler who changed the history of the world.

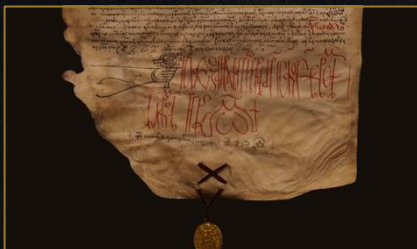
SIX QUESTIONS. THIRTEEN-CENTURY MYSTERY.

- Does a symbol on the seal point to an ancient burial of the Dulo dynasty - the founders of Bulgaria?
- Could cutting-edge DNA labs finally reveal the origins of the Bulgarian people?
- Can advanced lasers decode invisible inscriptions on the Madara Rider?
- Was Tervel - ruler of Bulgaria and Caesar of Rome - also the first Bulgarian saint?
- Where is the lost crown of the Bulgarian kings?
- Was Pliska once the largest city in early medieval Europe?

An epic saga through history, science, and adventure to uncover the legacy of a ruler who saved Europe.



Plamen Petkov



Charter with a Bulgarian royal seal



Tervel - saint and ruler, as depicted in a Bulgarian fresco

