NOTES AND QUERIES

No. 2 – Stefan Nemanja, grand župan of Serbia (*Lindsay L. Brook*)

What are the origins of Stefan Nemanja, Grand Župan of Serbia (c. 1167- abdicated 1196)? Matl (1995) has reviewed Orbini's (1601) account, and various Serbian traditional versions, and (rightly it seems) rejected them. Miroslav, Stefan's brother, states that he [Miroslav] was the son of a certain Zavid (otherwise unknown). If Miroslav and Stefan were full brothers, then we have the name of Stefan's father. Stefan's charter issued to Hilandar monastery in 1198 states that 'he came into power in his grandfather's patrimony' (Fine, 1994, pp.2-3), suggesting that Zavid was a son of Desa, Grand Župan of Raška (c1145- c1166), himself son of Uroš I (c1125-c1145). The name Uroš persisted among Stefan Nemanja's descendants for many generations. But we await proof.

Uroš I was the son of Vukan, Governor and then independent Grand Župan of Raška. Since Vukan was a nephew of Constantine Bodin, King of Duklja, there is the strong possibility of a genealogical link to the early medieval rulers of present-day Montenegro.

Fine, John V A (1994). *The Late Medieval Balkans. A Critical Survey from the Late Twelfth Century to the Ottoman Conquest.* Ann Arbor, Michigan, pp.2-3, p.58, note 2.

Matl, J (1995). *Genealogie und geschichteliche Leistung der serbischen Königshauses der Nemanjiden*. Südslawische Studien, Südosteuropäische Arbeiten, Munich, **63**: 45-57.

Orbini, M (1601). *Il regno degli Slavi.* Pesaro.