

THREE EARLY SHALLOW-BUTRESSED TOWERS OF THE MONASTERY OF CHILANDAR, ON MOUNT ATHOS

In our paper we present three early buttressed towers of the monastery of Chilandar on Mount Athos: the tower of St Sava, part of the monastic enclosure, the remains of the so-called “Albanian tower”, near the monastery of Chilandar, on the way to its western port of Giovanitsa and the ruins of a deserted tower in the vicinity of the monastery of Zographou. In these towers the external pilasters are of relatively small dimensions (shallow buttresses) and are located on all sides of the towers, but not at the corners.

Tower of St. Sava

The great tower of St Sava, built around 1200 outside the older enclosure of the Chilandar, is part of the defensive monastic walls (fig. 1-8)¹. The consolidation works in the tower (2000-01) were carried out after our study;² the special needs for our technical description and proposals led us to conduct a complete investigation and recording of the building. The restoration works proceeded with a detailed investigation and documentation in every part of the building, where an intervention was required.

¹ D. Bošković, Svetogorski Pabirci, *Starinar* 14 (1939), 82-89; S. Nenadović, Odbrana manastira Hilandara, *Zbornik za Likovne Umetnosti* 8 (1972), 91-116; P. Theocharides, The byzantine fortified enclosure of the monastery of Chelindariou, *Hilandarski Zbornik* 7 (1989), 59-70; S. Nenadović, *Osam vekova Hilandara gradjenije i gradjevine*, Beograd 1997, 226-233; M. Kovasević, Fortification Walls and Towers, *Hilandar Monastery*, Beograd 1997, 133-144. See also P. Theocharides, Ο πύργος του Αγίου Σάββα στη Μ. Χελανδαρίου: προλεγόμενα της κτιριακής του διερεύνησης, *Το Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στη Μακεδονία και Θράκη* 13 (Thessaloniki 1999), 317-325; P. Theocharides-I. Papaggelos, Ο πύργος του Αγίου Σάββα της Ι. Μ. Χελανδαρίου, *Οι Πύργοι του Αγίου Όρους* (ed. ΚΕ.Δ.Α.Κ.), Thessaloniki 2002, 62-65; P. Androudis, *Μελέτη Αποκατάστασης του Πύργου του Αγίου Σάββα* (unpublished study of restoration), Thessaloniki 2000; Idem, Γύρω από τις εργασίες αποκατάστασης στους οχυρωματικούς πύργους της Μονής Χελανδαρίου στο Άγιον Όρος, *15 χρόνια έργων αποκατάστασης στη Μεσαιωνική Πόλη της Ρόδου* (Ρόδος, 14-18 Νοεμβρίου 2001), Athens 2007, 528-535, pl. 427-433.

² P. Androudis, *Μελέτη Αποκατάστασης του Πύργου του Αγίου Σάββα*, op. cit



Fig. 1 The tower of St Sava from the S.-E. (1989)

Сл. 1 Кула Св. Саве са североистока (1989.)

Planned and built as a part of the defences of Hilandar, the tower of St Sava is not an independent fortification. Constructed on a rock ledge, it is a dominant feature (fig. 1, 3a- 5), the main defending tower of the monastery. Its western side (fig. 4a), adjoining the defensive wall, faces the courtyard. Judging by the remains of walls in this section, the tower of St. Sava was located in the northeast part of the monastic fortress, adjoining its east wall. In size and ground plan (fig. 2a- δ), the tower resembles the great tower of Transfiguration of the monastery of Vatopedi (fig. 9).³ At present, the tower of St Sava consists of the basement, the ground-floor, four storeys with the chapel of St. John the Forerunner and an attic (fig. 2a- δ).

According to D. Bošković (1939), the tower had three main building phases (fig. 3a- b). The first one, from the the ground up to the second storey (fig. 4a- 5), was associated to the founding of Serbian Hilandar by Saints Simeon and Sava (end of 12th century). The second comprises the next two storeys, including the roof of the chapel and dates to the beginning of the 14th century. It is ascribed to the Serbian king Stefan Uroš Milutin (1282-1321), who, according to the Serbian Archbishop Danilo II, built in Hilandar not only the catholicon but also “*many imperial palaces and excellent cells..., battlements around this Holy Place with a great fortress because of the imminent threat of the godless pirate*”. The third phase of 1682-84, in fact a phase of repairs, comprises the superimposed arches within the tower, the crenellations and the wooden roof, as well as reconstructions in the chapel.⁴ The access between the floors is gained by wooden stairs.

³ For the tower of Transfiguration of Vatopedi see: A. Katsaros, *Ο πύργος της Μεταμορφώσεως της Ιεράς Μονής Βατοπαιδίου, Οι Πύργοι του Αγίου Όρους*, op. cit., 44-49.

⁴ D. Bošković, *Svetogorski Pabirci*, op. cit.

The two main building phases are easily visible on the facades (fig. 4a– 5). The older zone with some early byzantine *spoliae* was built with stone blocks and roughly cut pieces of stone with pieces of thin black slate put one above the other (fig. 7– 8). The walls in the upper zone were constructed with stone of various sizes, along with bricks and black thin slates. These different ways of construction can also be seen on the inner faces of the tower. The joint between the two faces (fig. 4a) runs between the second and the third floor.

As we said, the tower was built in contact with the eastern wall of an already existing building (a tower?) of the ancient Greek monastery of Chelandariou (fig. 2a– β). The original tower entrance was created lower, on its old adjoining wall (fig. 3a). Now it is walled-up (fig. 4a, 6) with a stone threshold and has the same dimensions with the original entrance of the tower. The actual doorway, created above the older one,⁵ is accessible through a staircase leading over the originally higher wall. The creation of a new doorway took place after the third phase's works (construction of the internal pilasters and their arches, repairs of the wooden floors). It seems that crenellations were constructed on the wall for the protection of the new entrance.

There is no doubt that the lower part pre-dates the tower. The external corners are built with well carved stones, in contrast to the nearby structure of the tower, the surface of which consists of irregularly placed stones and mortar, so that today it appears exactly as though it had been built in contact with an older wall which is no longer extant.

As we said above, it is worth remarking that the tower of St Sava is similar in plan to the tower of Transfiguration in the monastery of Vatopedi, which retains three building phases (fig. 9). The plan of the latter is similar to the one of the tower of St. Savas (except the lack of piers on the western elevation of St. Sava). It is possible that Saint Sava copied, in his newly-restored Chilandar, the tower of Vatopedi, where

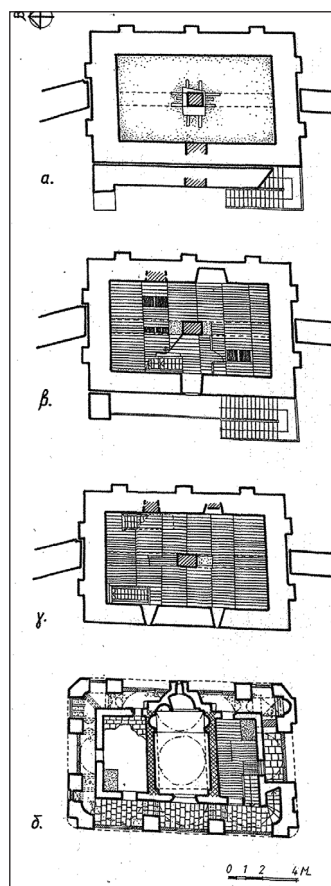


Fig. 2 Plans of the tower of St Sava (P. Androudis):

- α. At the level of the basement (end of 12th c.)
- β. At the level of the entrance (end of 12th c.)
- γ. At first floor (end of 12th c.)
- δ. At the level of the chapel (early 14th c.)

Сл. 2 Планови куле Св. Саве (P. Androudis):

- α. На нивоу подрума (крај XII века)
- β. На првом нивоу улаза (крај XII века)
- γ. На првом спрату (крај XII века)
- δ. На нивоу капеле (рани XIV век)

⁵ P. Theodorides, *The byzantine fortified enclosure*, op. cit.

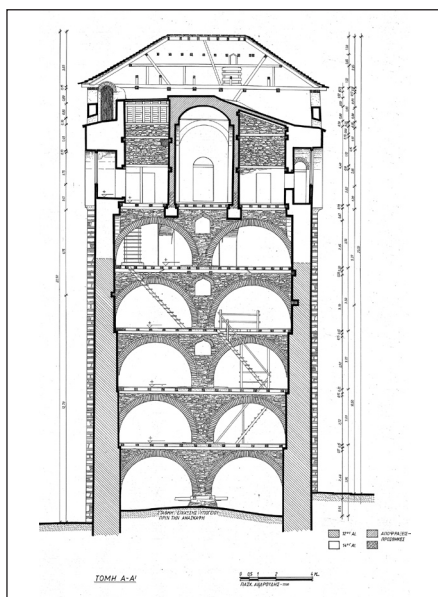


Fig. 3a Tower of St Sava. Longitudinal section (P. Androudis)
Сл. 3а Кула Св. Саве. Уздужни пресек (P. Androudis)

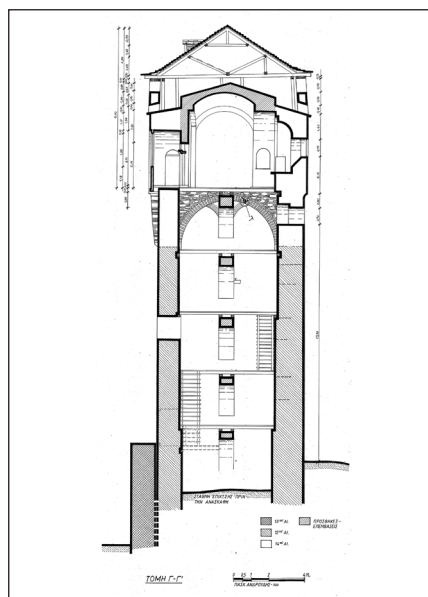


Fig. 3b : Tower of St Sava. Cross section (P. Androudis)
Сл. 3б. Кула Св. Саве. Попречни пресек (P. Androudis)

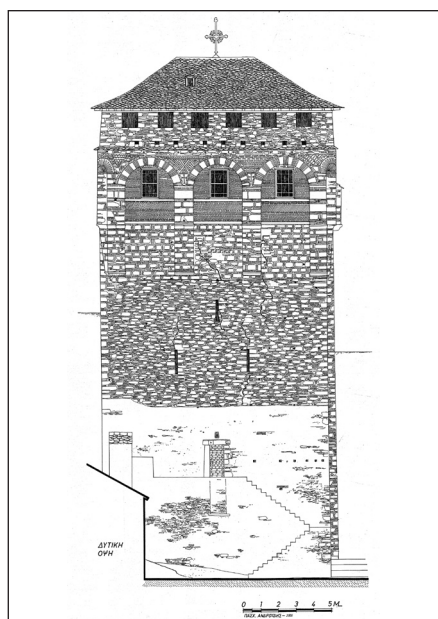


Fig. 4a Tower of St Sava. West elevation (P. Androudis)
Сл. 4а Кула Св. Саве. Западно узвишење (P. Androudis)

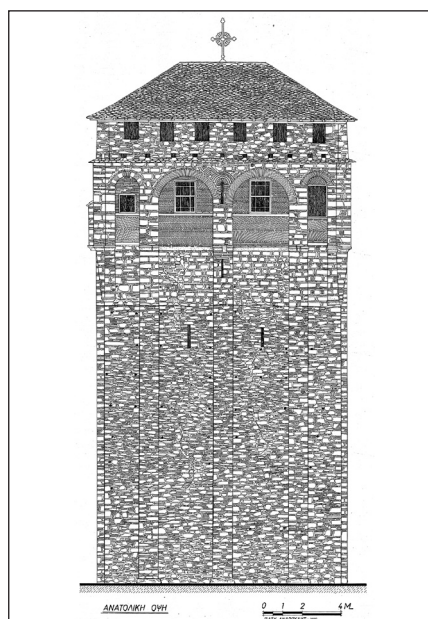


Fig. 4b Tower of St Sava. East elevation (P. Androudis)
Сл. 4б Кула Св. Саве. Источно узвишење (P. Androudis)

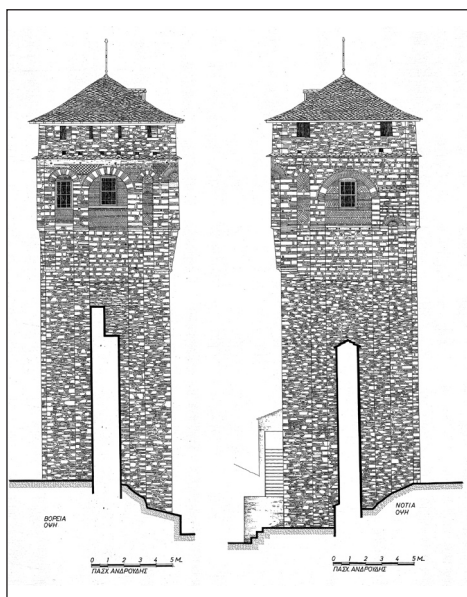


Fig. 5 Tower of St Sava. North and south elevations (P. Androudis)

Сл. 5 Кула Св. Саве. Северно и јужно узвишење (P. Androudis)



Fig. 6 The first entrance of the tower, pierced in an older byzantine wall (2000)

Сл. 6 Први улаз у кулу, пробијен у старији византијски зид (2000.год.)



Fig. 7 First phase of the tower: detail of masonry (2000)

Сл. 7 Прва фаза куле: детаљ са изградње (2000.)

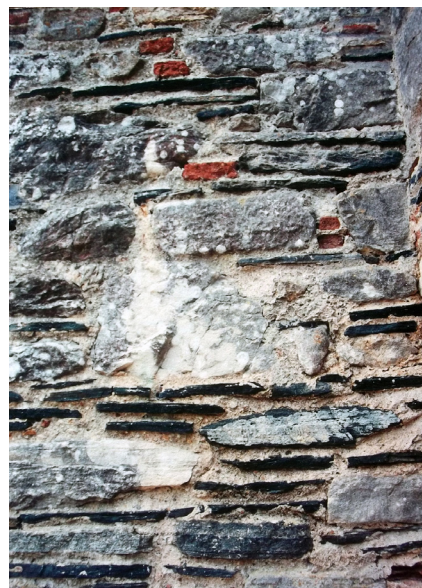


Fig. 8 First phase of the tower: detail of masonry (2000)

Сл. 8 Прва фаза куле: детаљ са изградње (2000.)

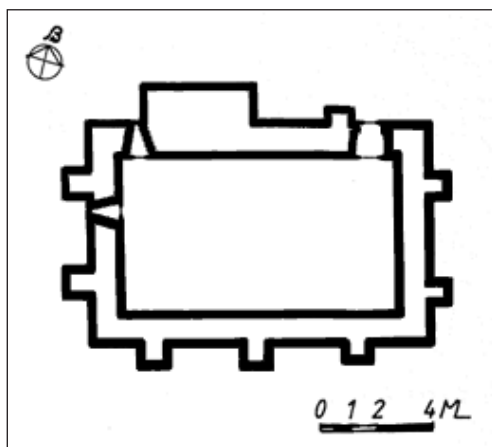


Fig. 9 Great tower of the monastery of Vatopedi (P. Androudis)

Сл. 9 Велика кула манастира Ватопеда (P. Androudis)

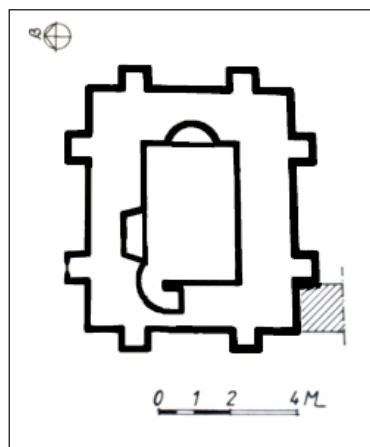


Fig. 10 Ruined tower of the athonite monastery of Katzaris

Сл. 10 Уништена кула атонског манастира Катзарис

he had been a monk up to that time together with his father, Saint Simeon. Or it cannot be excluded that the tower of Vatopedi was built, or restored, by Saint Sava himself, since the sources mention that he founded a chapel in the tower. The older byzantine phase of the tower of St. George, in the NW corner of the monastery of Vatopedi, has a plan which is a variant of this type of tower.⁶

Some meters to the south of the tower of St Sava, in the base of the present bell-tower, we can still see remains of a smaller tower,⁷ built in the same manner as the first phase of the tower of St Sava. The plan of the complex (the extended old wall stretching south from the tower of St Sava is a “connection” with this smaller building) clearly indicates that this tower was also a part of an older system of defense.

The tower of the former athonite monastery of Katzaris (fig. 10),⁸ which was founded in the second half of the tenth century, belongs also to the same type of tower with shallow buttresses.

⁶ On these towers see: P. Theodorides, *Οι βυζαντινοί περίβολοι των μονών Βατοπεδίου και Μεγίστης Λαύρας*, *Το Άγιον Όρος. Χθές-σήμερα-αύριο*, Thessaloniki 1996, 105-118; Idem, *Το συγκρότημα του περιβόλου, Ιερά Μεγίστη Μονή Βατοπεδίου. Παράδοση-Ιστορία-Τέχνη*, t. Α', Mount Athos 1996, 150-156; Idem, *Recent Research into Athonite Monastic Architecture, Tenth-Sixteenth Centuries*, *Mount Athos and Byzantine Monasticism* (Papers from the Twenty-eighth Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Birmingham, March 1994, ed. A. Bryer-M. Cunningham), Aldershot, Hampshire 1996, 208, 212; Idem, *Observations on the Byzantine Butressed Towers of Macedonia*, *Byzantine Macedonia. Art, Architecture, Music and Hagiography, Papers from the Melbourne Conference, July 1995*, ed. By J. Burke-R. Scott, Melbourne 2001, 20-27.

⁷ M. Kovasević, *Fortification Walls and Towers*, op. cit., 135 (plan) and 140.

⁸ A. Papazôtos, *Recherches topographiques au Mont Athos, Géographie Historique du Monde Méditerranéen* (Byzantina Sorbonensia 7), Paris 1988, 154-155, 166, 174. The tower was in use until the first half of the fourteenth century.

The so-called 'Albanian' tower

The ruins of the so-called 'Albanian tower' ('arbanaskij pirg'), are situated a few kilometres south of Chilandar, on the way to its western port of Giovanitsa.⁹ This free-standing tower (fig. 11- 15) is generally attributed to Ioannis Kastriotis, ruler of northern Albania and father of Georgios Kastriotis (the so-called "Skanderbeg", 15th c.), who bought it as an *adelfaton* for him and his family¹⁰. Repoš, one of the sons of Ioannis, lies in the grave which was built in the south wall of the narthex of the catholicon of Chilandar.

It is clear that Repoš at least, lived for a period within the tower and its complex which existed at his time. This tower, at present deserted, is of almost rectangular plan with a later cistern adjacent to its northern wall. It seems likely that this *pyrgos* is a very old structure. Not only the plan of the tower itself, but also its building techniques led us to propose this different interpretation. We have already published all the archaeological and written evidence on the tower and thus proposed its dating to the middle-byzantine period.

The building survives to a height of 6 m. Its plan (fig. 13) measures 6, 40 by 6, 70 metres (the external pilasters not included), with a wall thickness of approximately 1, 50 metres. Its entrance was opened in the eastern wall, some metres above the ground (fig. 11, 12). The walls (fig. 11, 15) were built with rough-cut stone and abundant reddish lime mortar. A wooden staircase would have been required to gain access to it, as was necessary at most of the byzantine free-standing towers.

The tower belongs also to the same type as the tower of St Sava, in which each side of the building is strengthened with external piers, but not at the corners. It is certain that the tower had initially three storeys at least. We do not know whether its upper storey had crenellations or not. There is a lack of any sort of decorative ornamentation.

Faced with a lack of documents regarding the tower from the medieval period prior to Kastriotis, the problems of date and function will be examined

⁹ V. Petković, 'Arbanaški pirg' u Hilandaru, *Arhiv za arbanašku starinu, jezik i etnologiju* I/1-2 (1923), 197-199; P. Androudis, Ιστορικές και αρχαιολογικές μαρτυρίες για τον «Πύργο του Αλβανού» της Μονής Χελανδαρίου στο Άγιον Όρος, *Βυζαντικά* 22 (Thessaloniki 2002), 219-245; B. Bojović, Mont Athos, les princes roumains, Jean Castriot et la Tour albanaise (*Arbanaški pirg*) dependence de Chilandar, *Balkanica* XXXVII (Beograd 2007), 81-98. Mentions of the tower in: S. Nenadović, Hilandar na grafičkim prikazima XVIII i XIX stoleća, *Zbornik zaštite spomenika kulture* XVI (1965), 105-106; Idem, *Odbrana manastira Hilandara*, op. cit., 94 (fig. 3), 113-114; Idem, *Osam vekova Hilandara*, op. cit., 242, fig. 303. See also: M. Živojinović, *Svetogorske kelije i pirgovi u srednjem veku*, Beograd 1972, 106, 117; C. Pavlikianov, *The Medieval Aristocracy on Mount Athos* (Monumenta Slavico-byzantina et medievalia europensia vol. XV), Sofia 2001, 29-31.

¹⁰ On the meaning of the byzantine term *adelfaton* see: E. Hermann, Die Regelung der Armut in den byzantinischen klöstern, *Orientalia Christiana Periodica* 7 (1941), 406-460; M. Živojinović, Adelfati u Vizantiji i srednovekovnoj Srbiji, *ZRVI* 11 (1968), 241-270; I. Konidares, *Νομική θεώρηση των μοναστηριακών τυπικών*, Athens 1984, 223-230; P. Lemerle (nouvelle édition), Archives de l'Athos II, *Actes de Kutlumis*, Paris 1988, 51; P. Magdalino, Adelphaton, *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, t. 1, N. York-Oxford 1991, 19; I. Karagiannopoulos, *Λεξικό Βυζαντινής Ορολογίας. Οικονομικοί Όροι*, t. A', Thessaloniki 2000, 70.



Fig. 11 The “Albanian tower” seen from the East (2001)

Сл. 11 „Албанска кула” гледано са истока (2001.)

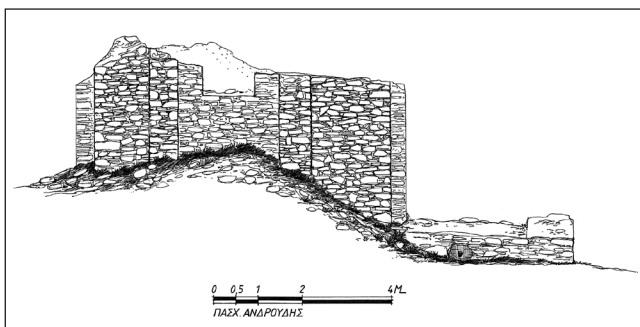


Fig. 12 “Albanian tower”. East elevation (P. Androudis)

Сл. 12 „Албанска кула”. Источно узвишење (P. Androudis)

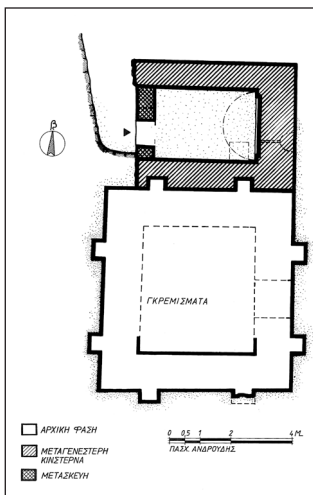


Fig. 13 : “Albanian tower”. Plan (P. Androudis)

Сл. 13 „Албанска кула”. План (P. Androudis)

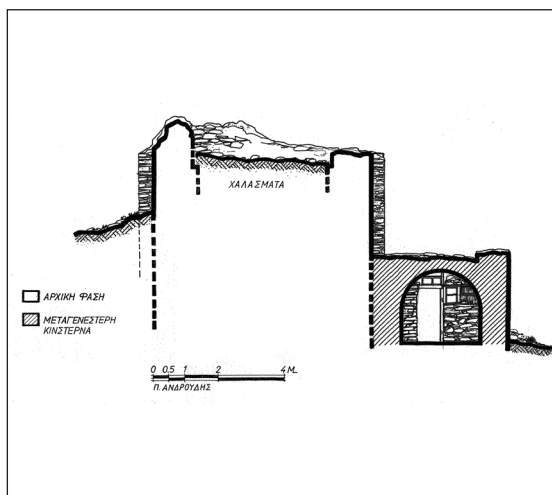


Fig 14 “Albanian tower”. Section (P. Androudis)

Сл 14 „Албанска кула”. Пресек (P. Androudis)



Fig. 15 "Albanian tower". South elevation (2001)

Сл. 15 „Албанска кула”. Јужно узвишење (2001.)

by seeking formal parallels for our tower which might shed light to the date and function of the tower. The major questions, which may not be subject to a definite resolution, are when exactly was the tower built and why it was built.

In our opinion the tower was erected as a defensive structure either of a non-identified old Greek monastery of the region of Mileai, or of Chilandar itself, at the time of St. Sava. Thus, a date of 11th or end of 12th century is quite probable.

The old tower was later renewed and, as we said before, was sold to Ioannis Kastriotis in the course of 15th century. It is quite possible that the cistern adjacent to the north side of the building (fig. 13-14) is also a later addition of 15th century.

Ruined tower near the frontier with the monastery of Zographou

The ruined tower near the frontier of Chilandar with Zographou that we discovered in 1991 (fig. 16- 19),¹¹ stands on a small promontory, about 35 minute's walk from the latter. Unfortunately, we cannot identify the tower with one of these towers of monasteries mentioned in Greek and Slavic sources.

The tower displays at least two medieval phases of construction (fig. 19). The first one is the tower itself, with shallow piers on each side. Its dimensions are 9, 35 by 6, 15 meters (the buttresses of a thickness of 30 cm are not included) and the maximum conserved height is 5, 80 meters. The tower originally possessed many floors. Its walls are constructed of medium-size stones (as well as with thin black slates like the masonries of the first phase of the tower of St Sava) and reddish lime-mortar. As for the internal structure of the building, a wooden framework was used, the holes of which are still visible. The tower received later strengthening in its western side, as well as the adjunction

¹¹ P. Androudis, Ερειπωμένος βυζαντινός πύργος στο Άγιον Όρος, *Μακεδονικά* 32 (2001), 355-363.

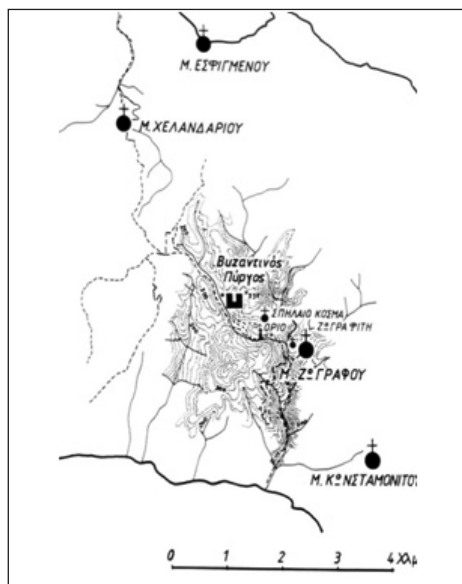


Fig. 16 Location of the ruined tower in the frontier of Chilandar and Zographou (P. Androudis)

Сл. 16 Локација уништене куле на граници Хиландара са Зографом (P. Androudis)



Fig. 17 The ruined tower in the frontier of Chilandar and Zographou, from the N. – East (1991)

Сл. 17 Уништена кула на граници Хиландара са Зографом, са северо-истока (1991.)



Fig. 18 The tower seen from the East (1991)
Сл. 18 Кула гледано са истока (1991)

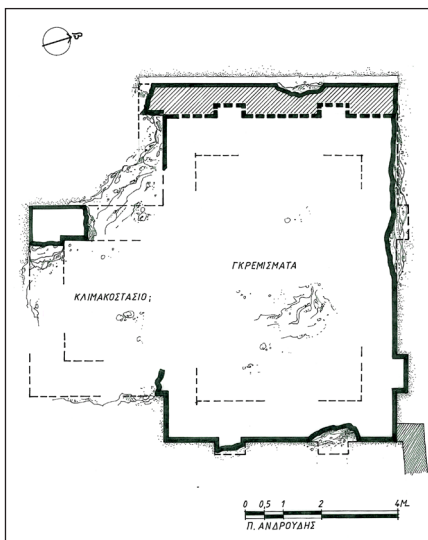


Fig. 19 Plan of the tower and its latest adjacent structures (P. Androudis)

Сл. 19 План куле и њених најновијих оближњих грађевина (P. Androudis)

of a square structure, at present in ruins (probably a cistern, like the so-called "Albanian tower"). Once again there is a lack of any sort of decorative ornamentation.

The entrance does not survive any more. It should have been opened some meters above the ground level and it could have been reached only by an exterior wooden stair.

It is clear that our tower is of a defensive intent. Judging by the plan and its structure, it should be dated to 11th-12th centuries. Either it belonged to an 11th century unknown middle-byzantine monastery or to the late 12th century defensive structures of Chilandar built in the time of St Sava. It appears that in the Late Byzantine era the tower was renovated and used as a watchtower for the monastery of Chilandar.¹²

*Some further remarks on the typology of the towers
with shallow piers on each side*

The origin of the typology of the above-mentioned towers – at least for the present Greek territory – is generally attributed to the athonite military architecture of 10th -12th centuries. P. Theocharides grouped the towers with shallow and strongly projected pilasters in three "basic" types.¹³ According to this classification, our towers belong to the first type, in which the pilasters are of relatively small dimensions and located on all sides of the towers, but not at their corners.¹⁴ The towers of the other two types (in type "B", the piers are created on all sides and in each corner,¹⁵ while in type "C", a pier is located in each corner)¹⁶ are totally different from our towers. For the towers of type "B" (e.g. tower of St. George, tower of Milutin, tower of St. Basil ["Hrusija"], all belonging to Chilandar, tower of Rila in Bulgaria), since they are associated with the Serbian kingdom, it was supported that they are "descendants" of Western European towers and that this model was introduced into byzantine Macedonia via the Adriatic coast.¹⁷ Theocharides rejected this opinion and pointed out that

¹² Op. cit., 363.

¹³ P. Theocharidis, *Observations on the Byzantine Butressed Towers*, op. cit., 20-27.

¹⁴ Op. cit., 20.

¹⁵ To this type we may include the towers of St. George, of Milutin and of St. Basil, all dependencies of Chilandar, the first phase of the tower of Morphonou near Megisti Lavra on Mount Athos, the tower of the maritime fort of Mandraki of Megisti Lavra, the towers of Vrasna and Galatista in Halkidiki, the tower of Chandakas and the tower of Eukarpia in Amphipolis, the tower of Ezevai (Dafni) in Serres, the tower of the monastery of Timios Prodromos in Serres, the tower of the monastery of Rila in Bulgaria.

¹⁶ P. Theocharidis, *Observations on the Byzantine Butressed Towers*, op. cit., 20.

¹⁷ S. Ćurčić, Pyrgos-Stl'p-Donjon, A western fortification concept on Mount Athos, and its sources, *Byzantine Studies Conference Abstracts* (1981), 21-22. On western buttressed towers see: A. Chatelain, *Donjons Romains des pays d'Ouest. Étude comparative sur les donjons romans quadrangulaires de la France de l'Ouest*, Paris 1973; F. Enaud, *Abbeyes fortifiées du Midi de la France*, Bulletin de l'Institut International des Châteaux Historiques, no 35 (1980), *Actes du XV^e Réunion du Comité Scientifique de l'Institut International des Châteaux historiques, Ouranopolis-Mont Athos : 10-14 Mai 1978*, Thessalonique 1980, 166

there are no examples of these types of towers in other peripheries of the byzantine state. Apart from this fact that is true, he also pointed out the presence of buttressed towers in southern Italy before Byzantium and thus expressed the opinion for a possible “transfer of this model to Athos at the end of the tenth century via the monasteries we know that they were founded there by monks of Southern Italy”.¹⁸

Other scholars support that the typology of buttressed towers is exclusively byzantine.¹⁹ Important is the mention of a tower in the *metochion* of Volvos (belonging to the monastery of Iviron) with 14 external piers, in a *praktikon* of the *sebastos* Ioannis Komnenos of 1104: “πύργος πεντάπατος πεπατωμένος διὰ πατερῶν καὶ σανίδων πελεκητῶν καὶ περιφραγμένος ὁμοίως διὰ σανίδων, ἔχων γύρωθεν καὶ τοξοβολήστρας, σκεπόμενος μετὰ σφαιρῶν καὶ κεράμων, γύρωθεν δὲ ἐστὶ συνδεδεμένος ὑπὸ πινσῶν δεκατεσσάρων”.²⁰

Although the affinities of the plans of the towers discussed above with western models are obvious, it seems to me that the typology of the buttressed towers in Macedonia is clearly greek and there is no trace of influence from the West. As Theocharides suggested, it is possible that the architectural concept of this type “type A” is related to contemporary (11th-12th century) fortification walls reinforced externally with shallow piers.²¹

It is also evident that the towers “of the type A” are quite different from the towers that he grouped in other two “types”. Moreover, we do not have any evidence on the way of their top part was created, since no one of our towers conserve its crenellations. The buttressed towers of type “B” (with pilasters at the corners), which were certainly stronger fortifications, have pilasters that they are connected by arches running up the entire height of the free standing facades. It seems to me that towers of the type “B” should be regarded as buildings of late 13th and 14th century and not as earlier structures and definitely constitute an evolution of earlier towers belonging to type “A”. Towers of “type C” should be dated to later times.

Conclusions

There is no doubt that the three Chilandar towers with shallow pilasters that we presented above belong to the early history of the athonite monasteries. Each of these buildings is characterized by the absence of architectural decora-

et suivantes, fig. 11-12).

¹⁸ P. Theocharidis, *Butressed Towers*, op.cit., 26.

¹⁹ C. Pavlikianov, *Απόπειρα τυπολογικής συγκρίσεως των τύπων ελευθέρως ισταμένων πύργων ανά τον μείζονα βυζαντινό χώρο κατά την υστεροβυζαντινή περίοδο*, *Βυζαντιναί Μελέται* 4 (1992), 473; N. Zikos, *Βυζαντινοί πύργοι στο κάτω τμήμα της κοιλάδας του Στρυμόνα*, *Διεθνές Συνέδριο: Οι Σέρρες και η περιοχή τους από την αρχαία στη μεταβυζαντινή κοινωνία. Σέρρες 29 Σεπτεμβρίου- 3 Οκτωβρίου 1993, Πρακτικά*, t. A', Thessaloniki 1998, 323-324.

²⁰ J. Lefort- N. Oikonomidès- D. Papachryssanthou- V. Kravari- H. Métrévêli (éds), *Actes d'Iviron*, vol. II, no 52, lines 434-437. It is evident that the tower served as a granary.

²¹ E.g. the part of the western walls above the gate of Cassandreotiki in Thessaloniki.

tion and any but the most basic architectural articulation, comprised of shallow buttresses. There is no common origin or patron. The austerity of these buildings does however allow them to be considered as parallels for other athonite towers of the same type. Unfortunately, this characteristic offers no precise basis for dating, except in so far as such austerity can be considered evidence of an early (11th- 12th century) rather than a late (13th century) origin. At best, if an absence of any obvious later stylistic features (such as big piers) automatically implies an early date, it suggests that an early date for the "albanian" tower and the deserted tower near Zographou is quite possible.

In our opinion, the first phase of the 'albanian' tower, as well as the one of the deserted tower near Zographou must have belonged either to some 11th century middle-byzantine monasteries, or at least to the end of the 12th century (the time of the Serbian reconstruction of Chilandar). In design they resemble a lot the towers of other old byzantine monasteries on Mount Athos dating from the 11th century, like those ones in Vatopedi (in the NW corner and the tower of the Transfiguration) and the tower of Katzaris.

It is desirable that the excavation of the two deserted towers of Chilandar should be undertaken and that these important medieval athonite monuments should receive some measure of protection and conservation before it is too late.

Паскал Андрудис (Pascal Androudis)
ТРИ РАНЕ КУЛЕ СА ПЛИТКИМ ПОТПОРНИМ ЛУКОМ
МОНАСТИРА ХИЛАНДАР НА СВЕТОЈ ГОРИ

Циљ нашег рада је да представи три ране куле са плитким потпорним луком манастира Хиландара на Светој Гори. Старија фаза изградње куле Светог Саве повезана је са оснивањем српског Хиландара (са светитељима Симеоном и Савом, крај XII века), док се њена друга фаза приписује српском краљу Стефану Урошу Милутину (рани XIVв.). По величини и основи, кула подсећа на велики јужни торањ манастира Ватопеди. Данас се кула Светог Саве састоји од подрума, приземља, четири спрата и поткровља.

„Албанска“ кула, недалеко од Хиландара, је напуштена правоугаона грађевина са цистерном на задњој страни, која се наслања на њен северни зид. Мада се повезује са Јоанисом Катриотисом, владарем северне Албаније и оцем Скендербега (прва половина XV века), кула је била много старија а у његово време је поново била у употреби.

Уништена кула коју смо открили на граници Хиландара са Зографом, одсликава две средњовековне фазе: једна из XI века (вероватно је припадала непознатом средњевизантијском манастиру) и друга (обнављање у позно-византијској ери), када је кула поново била у употреби вероватно као осматрачница за Хиландар.

По нашем мишљењу, прва фаза у „албанске“ куле, као и прва фаза напуштене куле требало би да се датирају или у XI век или до краја XII века (време Српске обнове Хиландара). По пројекту подсећају на атонске куле (Катзарис) из XI века, или зидове утврђења (Дохеиариу, Ксенопхонтос, итд).

