

POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS OF COMETS IN SERBIAN MEDIEVAL ART

There are a number of motifs in medieval art that indicate the astronomical origin. In Serbian medieval art representations of the Sun and the Moon on the fresco the Crucifixion from the monastery Visoki Dečani is certainly the most considered motif. Representation of these two celestial bodies are a part of the dogmatic solution of the composition of the Crucifixion, but what particularly single out them is a special way, namely form, in which they are presented. In both cases painted celestial bodies are presented so, that they are in movement by the addition to the existing "teardrop" envelope radiating elements that strongly emphasize the movement. Just their shape suggests the explanation what was the idea of the artist during the work on this fresco, as well as whether he had as model for such an approach contemporary astronomical phenomena. The paper discusses the assumption that the artist found inspiration in similar presentations in the church Bogorodica Ljeviška in Prizren, which was painted from 1308 to 1314, at the time when as the motivation for such representation could serve the appearance of Halley's comet in 1307.

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