

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

UDC 291

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**WESTERN HOLY LAND STUDIES AS A SETTING FOR THE STUDY OF THE  
ACTIVITIES OF IMPERIAL ORTHODOX PALESTINIAN SOCIETY**

The article argues for the new study of the activities of Russian Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society in the setting of the Western Holy Land Studies. The latter is to be studied as a phenomenon of the European culture of the 19th century within the mental landscape and mindset dominated by a number of specific European/Christian concepts (e.g., Orientalism, supercessionism, etc). In order to show fears and expectations imposed upon the practical explorations in Palestine the author uses the novel *When It Was Dark* by Guy Thorne (1904), which describes a ‘great conspiracy’ to destroy Christianity by means of an archaeological fake.

*Keywords:* Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, Holy Land Studies, European Culture, 19 century, mass culture.

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