AN OUTLINE OF THE GREEK PRESS IN BULGARIA (1879-1906)

In this study I attempt an initial presentation of such material as has been preserved on the Greek press in Bulgaria, on the basis of the newspapers themselves, correcting the mistakes and filling in the gaps of works so far published in the Greek and foreign bibliography. I have found copies of these newspapers, bound into volumes (unfortunately all defective): 1) in the National Library in Athens, 2) in the Department of Old Publications (Staro-pečaten otdel) of the "Cyril and Methodius" Public Library in Sofia (NBKM), and 3) in the "Ivan Vazov" Public Library in Plovdiv in Bulgaria, where the greatest number of Greek newspapers are kept, classified in alphabetical order under the entry: "Publications in Greek".

The history of the Greek press in Bulgaria begins in 1879 in Philippopolis, the modern Plovdiv, then the capital of the autonomous Ottoman province of Eastern Roumelia, with the publication of the newspaper Φιλιπποπολίς [Philippopolis]. Before 1878, i.e. until the foundation of the Bulgarian state and the creation of an autonomous Eastern Roumelia by the Treaty of Berlin (July 1878), no Greek newspaper or periodical was published by the Greek communities in present-day Bulgaria1. In fact, the only Greek printing press that had functioned in this area before this period, and that only for a short time (1839-1840), was Dimitrios Kalambakidis' press at Melenikon (Melnik)2.

1. We can say that the activity of the Bulgarian press in Bulgaria also begins in the year 1878. The Bulgarian papers previously published in the present day Bulgaria were Dunav [Danube] (1865-1877), two copies of Istočnik mnenija [Source of Opinion] 1867-1868—both organs of the Ottoman authorities—Slava [Glory] 1871-73 and Učilište [School] 1876 in Rusčuk (Ruse), and the Žurnal za nauka, zanajat i targovija [Periodical for science, manufacture and commerce] (1860) in Plovdiv printed in Belgrade. See Manjo Stojanov, Bălgarska vazoždenska knižina [Bulgarian letters during the national renaissance], Sofia, NI, 1957, vol. I, pp. 439, 443, 446, 454; vol. II, pp. VI, VII. Istoriia na bălgarskata literatura [History of Bulgarian Literature], Sofia, BAN, vol. II, 1966, p. 188.

2. P. Spandonidis, Μελένικος. 'Ο νεκρός μακεδονικός άκριτης [Melenikos. The dead Macedonian Akrites], Thessaloniki, 1930, p. 35; Tr. Evangelidis, 'Η παιδεία επί Τουρκοκρατίας. ('Ελληνικά σχολεία από τής αλώσεως μέχρι Καποδιστρίου) [Education during the Ottoman Rule. From the Fall of Constantinople to Kapodistrias], Athens 1936, vol. I, p. 132; P. Pennas, "Ο Καλαβακίδης και το τυπογραφείο του" [Kalavakidis and his printing press], Η λέξη 29-30 (1940) 40; idem, Μελένικος ο Άκριτας του έλληνικού βορρά [Melenikos. The Akrites
Article 40 of the “Organic Law of Eastern Roumelia” ensured the freedom of the press in this autonomous province within the Ottoman state, and the publishing activity observed in the short space of its life 1878-1885 was very intense especially on the Bulgarian side.

Our information to date on the Greek press in Bulgaria from Greek sources has been minimal and scattered, drawn from monographs on cities and articles on the cultural activity of the Greek communities in Bulgaria. Our knowledge of the Greek press there, was limited to the names of three or four of the bigger newspapers and outlines of the lives of the more important editors.

The Greek press is considered in vol. III, pp. 14-17; but since D. Ivančev has not himself seen most of the newspapers, and his second-hand information about several of them comes from notices in the Bulgarian press of the period, the evidence with which he provides us is often insufficient or incorrect.

Before that, bibliographical information about all the Greek periodicals and newspapers published in Varna from time to time, had been included in I. Bliznakov's article "Varvenski periodičen pečat, 1880-1944" [The press of Varna, 1880-1944] in the periodical Izvestija na Varnensko Arheologichesko Družestvo [Bulletin of the Varna Archaeological Society] (hereafter IVAD), 12 (1961) 92-93. Unfortunately, though Blizankov mentions that several newspapers are to be found in the city's public library, I was unable to find any of them there (1974).

In the space of twenty-eight years (1878-1906), fifteen periodical and papers written in Greek, according to our present information, circulated in Bulgaria; to be precise: six in Philippopolis (Plovdiv): Φιλιππούπολις [Philippopolis], 'Ο Κοσμοπολίτης [The Cosmopolitan], 'Ο Μηνντωρ τον Αίμον [The Balkan Messenger], Σατανάς [Satan], Ειδήσεις τον Αίμον [Balkan News], 'Υγίεια [Health]; seven in Varna: Τηλέγραφος [Telegraph], 'Οθησός [Odessa], Ευξείνος [Euxine], 'Ανεξαρτησία [Independence], 'Ο 'Αμερόληπτος [The Impartial], Πανδαισία [Banquet], Φωνή [Voice]; and two in Pyrgos (Burgas) Τό Βήμα [The Rosstrum] and Θεατής [Spectator]. Of these papers the Philippopolis 'Ο Κοσμοπολίτης and the Varna Τηλέγραφος were published by non-Greeks. We can give the precise chronological limits of operation for only five of the newspapers: 1) Φιλιππούπολις 1879-1906, 2) 'Ο Μηνντωρ τον Αίμον 1894-1896, 3) Ειδήσεις τον Αίμον 1896-1906, 4) 'Υγίεια 1905-1906 and 5) Πανδαισία 1898-1900. Certain copies of the remaining papers are preserved which define the beginning of their lives but not the end.

These newspapers constitute a basic historical source for the history of the Greek communities of the Balkans, supplying information on the political, economic and cultural activity of Greeks in Bulgaria during the final quarter of the last century.

PHILIPPOPOLIS (PLOVDIV)

1) PHILIPPOUPOULIS [Φιλιππούπολις]. Εκδίδεται κατά Τετάρτην και Σάββατον. Διευθυντής και Ιδιοκτήτης: ΑΘ. Νικολαΐδης. Συντάκτης: Δ.Ι.

6. In the study the papers are dealt with by cities and in chronological order of publication. The full title of the paper is given, with the date of the first preserved copy, the names
The newspaper printed its main news in French as well as in Greek. In the French text dates are given according to the new, Gregorian, calendar.

Its director was Ath. Nikolaidis, one of the Nikolaidis brothers who had published, in Constantinople, the daily paper Κωνσταντινούπολις [Constantinople]. The fact that its editor was D.I. Koumarianos who with Vlassis Gavrilidis was also one of the editors of Κωνσταντινούπολις, is typical. After the Russo-Turkish war, Ath. Nikolaidis and his editor Kουmarianos began in Philippopolis the publication of the newspaper of the same name.

Φιλιππούπολις was published in Greek and French until 1885, and from 1885 to 1906 in Greek alone. The other editor, P.M. Marty, dealt with the French section. From the issue of 22/12/1879 no. 93 onwards the name of A. Passalery is mentioned instead of Marty's; the former was the chief engineer of the city, and for a time published a French satirical paper called Le Charivari Rouméliote. From the issue of 29/3/1880 no. 119 onwards, Koumarianos alone is mentioned as editor.

D. Ivančev, in Bălgarski periodičen pečat, refers to Argyrios Dimitriadis as editor-in-chief in 1885, and Koumarianos as director and publisher. Argyrios Dimitriadis was, until his death in 1900, a teacher and governor of the Greek schools of Stenimakhos (today Asenovgrad).

In the first period of its life 1878-1885, Φιλιππούπολις found itself in continual opposition to the Bulgarian newspaper Marica, and its leaders often referred to articles in the Bulgarian paper. At this time its publisher, Ath. Nikolaidis, was not infrequently prosecuted by the Penal Court of the Pre-
fecture for insulting the authorities. This was usually the result of taking up a stand in opposition to that of Marica; in the first two years after the paper's foundation he was convicted twice. Soon after 1882 the name of Nikolaidis ceased to be mentioned, and Dimitrios I. Koumarianos alone became director and editor of the newspaper.

The newspaper had its own printing press, probably since its foundation. After the destruction of his press in 1906 and his condemnation to death by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Committee [IMRO], Koumarianos fled to Greece. In 1910 he was appointed interpreter to the Royal Greek Embassy in Belgrade, where he died in 1912.

His paper constitutes a highly valuable source for the life of the Greek communities in Philippopolis and Stenimakhos, and also gives us important information on the life of the other communities throughout Eastern Rumelia and Macedonia.


Heading and text are printed in Greek, Bulgarian, Turkish, and French. The publisher was a Philippopolitan lawyer of Slovak descent, Ivan Petăr Žilka, who supported the view that the Aegean, the Danube, the Ober and the North Sea should be connected by canals.

3) Ο ΜΗΝΥΤΩΡ ΤΟΥ ΑΪΜΟΥ. 'Εφημερίς έκδιδόμενη δύς καθ' έβδομάδα. Άρ. 1. 'Εν Φιλιππούπολει τή 13/9/1894 [The Balkan Messenger. Newspaper published twice a week, no. 1. Philippopolis 13/9/1894]. The editor and the director are not mentioned in the heading. On the

13. Φιλιπποπούλος no. 166 of 20/9/1880.
15. My only source on this newspaper is Ivančev, op. cit., vol. I, p. 323, no. 3275, from where I take those details concerning the paper given here.
16. Athens Library, years 1895-96; Plovdiv Library, years 1894-96; Ivančev, op. cit., vol. III, p. 15, no. 8217. Ivančev, who has not seen the paper, erroneously supposes that perhaps the Εἰδήσεις τοῦ Αἴμου is the same paper. Also on indirect information—from a Bulgarian paper of the time—he catalogues a newspaper with the title "Omnitus to Emu" (vol. III, p. 15, no. 8220), which is none other than "O Μηνυτωρ τοῦ Αἴμου."
last page the name of the publisher and man responsible for the paper is printed—Petros Christu.

In the issue of 12/10/1894 (no. 7), G.O. Skavanis is mentioned as director and owner.

From the second year (no. 89 of 5/9/1895), the paper was published three times a week.

From the issue of 12/10/95 (no. 103), Georgios Iv. Zeku became responsible.

The paper ceased publication in February 1896, the last issue being no. 146 of 8/2/1896.

The publisher and editor of the paper, even though his name is not mentioned on the first issue, was Sotirios (Germanos) Skanavis17.

Skanavis was co-owner and editor, with Ch. Lambridis, of the Varna newspaper 'Οδησσός. In 1894 he settled in Philippopolis, where he began to publish the Μηντωρ τοϋ Αίμου. When the paper ceased publication in 1896, Skanavis transferred his publishing activity to Burgas (Pyrgos) where, in November of the same year, he began circulation of the newspaper Τὸ Βῆμα which was a continuation of 'Ο Μηντωρ τοϋ Αίμου. This is made clear by the editorial of the first edition of Τὸ Βῆμα and the numbering of its editions18.


From the issue of 2/6/1896 (no. 12), Sk[arlatos] Konstantinidis became editor-in-chief, and G. Museos director and co-editor. G. Museos ceases to be mentioned as the paper’s director in 1897.

G. Museos, a well-known scholar of Philippopolis20, was appointed consular agent in Stenimakhos by order of the Greek Government21.

The paper was, at different periods, published three times, twice and once

17. Εἰδήσεις no. 25 of 18/9/1894: "We have taken the first number of a newspaper published in Philippopolis under the title of 'Ο Μηντωρ τοϋ Αίμου, and edited by a great man well-known in our society, Sotirios Germanos Skanavis".

18. See below.

19. Athens National Library and Plovdiv Library, years 1896-1906; Ivančev, op. cit., vol. III, p. 15, no. 8214. Ivančev mentions that the papers of years I, III and IX are missing; yet in Plovdiv Library I was able to leaf through a complete set of the newspaper.

20. Editor of the Γρηγόριος Πακουριανός μέγας δομέστικος τής Δύσεως καὶ το ὅσον αὐτόν τυπικόν τής μονής τής Θεοτόκου τής Πετριτζονίσης [Gregory Pakourianos Great Domestic of the West and his Typikon of the Monastery of Petritzos], Leipzig, 1888.

21. Πανδαισία no. 10 of 16/5/1898. See also in 'Επετηρίς τοῦ ἐπὶ τῶν 'Εξωτερικῶν
a week. Argyrios Skarlatos Konstantinidis, a doctor, was director and editor of the paper from 1896 until it ceased publication in 1906.

Some copies of an offshoot publication of the newspaper have survived; they have the title Ἔκδοσεις τοῦ Αἴμου. [Monthly Literary and Scientific Supplement of the Balkan News]. These are pamphlets I (January 1906) and II (February 1906), which contain amateurs stories and poems and translations of sentimental stories of no particular interest.

5) ΣΑΤΑΝΑΣ [Satan], with the subtitle "Ο άνευ ορού τοῦ Δημήτρη Θεοδώρου" [Without bounds by Dimitris Theodorou]. Second year, no. 28, 28/10/1895. A satirical verse paper published every Saturday. We know nothing about the editor of this paper apart from his name, not even the duration of the paper he edited. Georgis Ivan Zekov was responsible for it. (See p. 350 Georgios Iv. Zeku).


This is a popularized medical periodical. On p. 3 of the first instament we read: "Health has as its aim the development of the chief principles of health, the popularization of sundry information about it and the transmission of the rules of health".

The final instament no. 8 was published in April 1906. Armodios left for Athens, after the events of 1906, and continued publishing his periodical there for a short time.

1) Υπουργείου τού Έλλαδι διπλωματικού σώματος. (G. Museos was appointed Consular Agent in the Vice-Consulate of Stenimakhos on April 17, 1899).

22. On his personality see K.M. Apostolidis, 'Ιστορία Φιλιππουπάλεως... pp. 447-448 and 700-701; idem, "Βιογραφία..." p. 53 P. Papachristodoulou, "'Αγωνιστική επιχειρηματολογία", p. 169. Apostolidis incorrectly writes that the Ειδήσεις τού Αίμου replaced 'Ο Μηνύσταρχ τού Αίμου edited by G. Museos. As we have mentioned the continuation of the Μηνύταρχ Το Βήμα in Burgas, and Museos is the first editor of Ειδήσεις τού Αίμου.

23. Plovdiv Library.

24. Nos. 28-36 (1895) and 37-41 (1896) are preserved in Plovdiv Library. The publication of this paper was unknown. Not even Ivančev catalogued it in his work.


VARNA


The paper from the issue of 4/9/1891 (no. 33) onwards was printed at its own press. "Διεθνές τυπογραφείον Όδησσού"[Odessa International Printing]28.

From the issue of 10/8/1891 (no. 33) Charalambos A. Lambridis became director and publisher in place of Athanasiadis. V. N. Gounaropoulos continued as responsible editor and the paper was published twice a week.

From the issue of 17/1/1892 (no. 65), Ch. A. Lambridis became director and editor with sole responsibility, and the paper appeared three times a week.

As from January of the fourth year of its publication, certain changes were made in the paper: Ch. A. Lambridis became director and editor-in-chief, and G.O. Skanavis29 co-owner and editor (no. 309 of 1/1/1894). The format of the paper became bigger, and was announced that in the next issue there would be published: "... the Odessa anthology, in which there will appear the finest short stories, in 36 supplements of 32 pages each"30. Unfortunately not a single one of these supplements has survived.

Ch. A. Lambridis is mentioned as sole owner and editor in the edition of 3/7/1894 (no. 356). G. O. Skanavis has moved on to found 'Ο Μηνύτωρ τον Αίμον in Philippopolis in September 1894, as we have mentioned.

It is not known precisely when the newspaper ceased publication; the last issue preserved is from 1894. We have information from the local Greek press that at the end of 1894 the paper's publication was irregular31.

8) ΕΥΞΕΙΝΟΣ. 'Εφημερίς πολιτική, φιλολογική και έμπορική έκδιδομένη άπαξ τής έβδομάδος. Διευθυντής 'Αναστ. 'Αθανασιάδης. Ύπεύθ. συντάκτης και έκδοτης Β.Ν. Γουναρόπουλος. "Ετος Α', άρ. 1, Βάρνα 30/3/9432.


28. A number of Greek publications were printed at this press, among them Io. Nikolaou's book: 'Η 'Οδησσός (Βάρνα) ύπαρχει αρχαιολογικά και ιστορικά πλούσιον [Odessa (Varna) from the archaeological and historical viewpoint], Varna 1894.

29. Interesting information about the personality of Lambridis and Skanavis is included in a letter of the adjutant consul of the Greek consulate in Varna, 13/3/1893, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Athens, AYE/KY, 1893, B 29,3.

30. 'Οδησσός, no. 309 of 1/1/1894
31. Ευξεινος, nos. 19 of 6/8/1894 and 29 of 15/10/1894.
La rédaction du "Philippourous", qui publie ce jour, tient à remercier les diverses personnes qui ont contribué aux articles précédents, en particulier les membres de l'administration du gouvernement et les représentants des diverses sections de la presse. Les articles récents du "Philippourous" ont été consacrés à divers sujets, tels que la finance, l'éducation, la politique, les sports, etc. Les articles sont écrits par des experts dans leurs domaines respectifs, et nous espérons que nos lecteurs les trouveront intéressants et utiles.

Le gouvernement a autorisé la publication de ce journal, dont le but principal est de fournir des informations précises et récentes sur les événements qui se déroulent dans la région. Le journal est également destiné à promouvoir la démocratie et à favoriser la coopération entre les différentes parties prenantes.

Le journal "Philippourous" est publié chaque semaine, et nous espérons que nos lecteurs le suivront de près et qu'ils le verront comme un outil utile pour rester informés des derniers événements.

Nous remercions également les lecteurs qui ont pris le temps de nous envoyer leurs commentaires et leurs suggestions. Nous sommes ouverts à toutes les idées qui peuvent aider à faire de "Philippourous" un journal encore plus utile et pertinent pour nos lecteurs.

Le dirigeant du "Philippourous"

[Signature]
The newspaper 'Ο Μηνότοφ τοῦ Αἵμου of Philippopolis, issue no. 89, November 5, 1895.
The satirical newspaper Σατανάς of Philippopolis, issue no. 28, October 22, 1895.
The first issue of the periodical Πανδαισία of Varna, November 10, 1898.

The paper very frequently found itself in opposition—often sharply—on community, and also on personal subjects with the 'Οδησσός, and more particularly during its initial period, with its editor, G.O. Skanavis. It is clear that the two newspapers represented two politically opposed factions in the spectrum of the Greek community of Varna, the same thing occurred in Philippopolis with the papers Φιλιπποπούλιτις and Ειδήσεις τοῦ Αίμου. I may note here the fact that the Euxine's director Anastasios Athanasiadis and its editor V.N. Gounaropoulos were the publishers of the 'Οδησσός, up to no. 31, Gounaropoulos continuing as editor up to no. 64.

V.N. Gounaropoulos, a musician and a director of the Varna Philharmonic, and editor of the newspaper, gave up his work with it in April 1894 because, as the paper says, "he has moved to Athens in order to finish his musical studies." Thus from no. 34 onwards Anastasios Athanasiadis became both director and editor-in-chief.

After the edition of 25/2/1896 (no. 99), Aristodimos Chatzipetrou became responsible editor of the paper: he was a personality in the Greek community and a member of its council of elders.

The last edition of the newspaper preserved is no. 127 of 25/9/1896. It is not known when the Εύξεινος ceased publication.

9) ΟΔΗΣΣΟΣ-ΕΥΞΕΙΝΟΣ [Odessa-Euxine]. I have found no information on this paper from any source except Ivančev, who mentions that it was published at the "International Press" of the Όδησσός in 1897, and Bliznakov, who notes the following bibliographical evidence on it: "Odessa-Euxine, Greek newspaper, years I-IV, 1893-1897 (evidenced by the newspaper Svoboda, 7/4/1893)". Perhaps this is a conflation of the titles of two separate newspapers, the 'Οδησσός and the Εύξεινος, as neither Ivančev nor Bliznakov personally saw the paper, but drew their evidence from Bulgarian publications of the time.

The paper is not preserved in any library and information on it derives from the contemporary Bulgarian press.

11) ΑΜΕΡΟΛΗΠΤΟΣ. 'Εφημερίς πολιτική, ἐμπορική, φιλολογική καὶ κοινωνικὴ ἐκδιδομένη Τετάρτη καὶ Σάββατον. Διευθυντής καὶ συντάκτης: 'Α. Δ. Οικονομίδης, 'Ὑπεύθυνος: Δρ. Β.Δ. Παράσχος, 'Ἐτος Α', ἀρ. 1. Βάρνα 19/5/1899 [The Impartial. Political, commercial, literary and social paper, published on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Director and Editor: A.D. Ekonomidis. Responsible: Dr. V.P. Paraschos. Year 1, no. 1, Varna 19/5/1899]. The paper clearly followed a pro-Turkish and anti-Russian line in politics, in the belief that it thus supported the true interests of the Greeks of Bulgaria.

The responsible of the paper, Dr. V.P. Paraschos, was a well-known lawyer and a leading figure in the Greek community of Varna. In the edition of 27/5/1899 (no. 3) G. Vasiliadis is mentioned as responsible editor. As appears from a comment in the paper (no. 3 of 27/5/99), V Paraschos had left because adverse criticism and reaction against the Turcophile line of 'Αμερόληπτος were very strong, from the Bulgarian side, but even more so from the Greek one.

The last copy of the paper preserved is of 29/5/99 (no. 4). It is not known exactly when it went out of circulation.

12) ΠΑΝΔΑΙΣΙΑ. 'Ἡθικὸν, κοινωνικὲν καὶ ἐγκυκλοπαιδικὸν φύλλον ἐκδιδόμενον τρῖς κατὰ μήνα τῇ συνεργασίᾳ πολλῶν ἐκπροσώπων διαφόρων κλάδων τῆς ἐπιστήμης. 'Υπὸ Δ. Χ. Δανίηλ, Διδάκτορος τῆς Φιλοσοφίας

40. Plovdiv Library, year 1899; Ivančev, op. cit., vol. III, p. 14, no. 8210; Bliznakov, op. cit., p. 93. Neither Ivančev nor Bliznakov found the newspaper; their information is second-hand.
41. See the leading article in no. 1 of 19/5/1899: "... Perhaps there will be those who will characterize us as they wish, but there will be those who cannot perceive how beneficial our policies of logic towards Constantinople will be to Hellenism, those who do not understand the nation's true interests; we forgive them for this lack of understanding, awaiting the opportunity to make them fellow-developers of Hellenism's real interests".
43. 'Αμερόληπτος no. 3 of 27/5/1899: "We publicly thank our dear friend, the popular lawyer of the city Mr. V. Paraskhos, for his kindness in serving as holder of responsibility for 'Αμερόληπτος. Unfortunately reasons unconnected with his own will, or rather pressures from men who misinterpret the programme of our paper, have forced our good friend to cease undertaking responsibility any further for what is written by us".
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καὶ προλόγι τῆς Θεολογίας. "Ετος Α', ἀρ. 1, Βάρνα, 10/1/1898
[Banquet. A moral, social and encyclopaedic paper, published three times a month and prepared through the co-operation of many representatives of various branches of science, under D. Chadzidaniil, Doctor of Philosophy and Bachelor of Divinity. Year 1, no. 1, Varna, 10/1/1898].

From 1899 it was published twice a month.

Chadzidaniil published his translations of philosophical and religious works and his own treatises in separately published volumes.

The periodical uses continuous numbering of pages throughout its issues. In its final issue no. 24 of 15/12/1900 it is announced that "The Banquet will become, from the sixth of January next, a political, social and literary weekly paper format..." Thus the following paper appears as its continuation.

13) ΦΩΝΗ. 'Εφημερίς πολιτική, ἐμπορική καὶ κοινωνική ἐκδοτική μεταζώντα ἐκδοτικοὶ Ζώντα τὰς Δόξαν τῆς Κυρίας. Περιοδικὸς Β', "Ετος Δ', ἀρ. 1, Βάρνα 27/1/1901
[Voice. Political, commercial and social newspaper published every Saturday by D. Chadzidaniil. Period II, Year 4, no. 1, Varna 27/1/1901].

It was published in a larger size than the Πανδαισία and the pages of the issues are not numbered continuously. Its last preserved issue is that of 9/7/1901 (no. 24). We do not know when it ceased publication.

14) ΤΗΛΕΓΡΑΦΟΣ
[Telegraph].

The only sources on this paper are Ivančev and Bliznakov. According to their information, the paper was published in 1881 nos. 1-3, 14-15th June 1881 by N.S. Čolakov, whith parallel text in Greek and Bulgarian.

BURGAS (PYRGOS)

15) ΤΟ ΒΗΜΑ. 'Εκδίδεται ἐν Πύργῳ Τρίτην καὶ Παρασκευὴν. Διευθυντὴς καὶ Ἰδιοκτήτης Γ.Ο. Σκαναβής. Περίοδος Α', ἀρ. 147, Βάρνα 20/11/1898

Ivančev, op. cit., vol. III, p. 15, no. 8221; Bliznakov, op. cit., 95. Bliznakov mentions the existence of a Greek periodical under the title "Pankrezija". I think that this is the Πανδαισία with the title incorrectly spelt by the Bulgarian newspaper from which he takes his information.

45. See Πανδαισία no. 11 of 1/6/1900, where mention is made of the publication and circulation, from 1899 on, of his work 'Ερμηνεία του Εὐαγγελίου τῶν Κυριακῶν [Interpretation of the Sunday Gospel]. See also Dh. Chadzidaniil, 'Απὸ Βάρνης εἰς Σωζάπολιν, ή τὸ ναυαγίῳ καὶ ἡ διάσωσις ήμῶν [From Varna to Sozopolis, or our shipwreck and rescue], Varna, 1905. For information about him see also Evangelidis, 'Η παιδεία επί Τουρκοκρατίας, op. cit., vol. II, p. 343.


The paper often changed in format and size; from the issue of 7/4/1897 no. 36 onwards it was published in small format and became a daily paper up till no. 60 of 7/6/97 "because of the prevailing political circumstances, in which Greece is playing the leading part...". At this period the paper is full of correspondence from Greece, news from the front and foreign news. Copies of it were snapped up to use a modern phrase; a fact that shows the interest of the Greeks of Pyrgos in developments in Greece.

From no. 60 onwards the editors of the paper frequently changed; Ghr. Papadopoulos, Ghr. Anastasiadis, Milt. Vazoles, and its format became larger, as before.

From the issue of 14/8/97 (no. 77) onwards, G.O. Skanavis became the only director and editor of To Bήμα.

The last preserved issue is that of 4/1/1898 (no. 101). We do not know when it ceased publication.


This paper has not been preserved in any library. Ivančev from whom the evidence on the paper comes, mentions that the heading and text were written in Greek, French and Bulgarian, and refers the reader to the Bulgarian press of the time.

Information as to the existence of the paper and the name of its publisher are to be found in 'Αμερόληπτος no. 2 (22/5/99) and no. 3 (27/5/99).

49. To Bήμα no. 36 of 7/4/1897.
52. "... the newspaper Θεατης which has recently started up in Pyrgos...".
53. "We are requested by Mr. G. Gorgias, who has recently arrived here from Pyrgos, to inform the public that on account of his travels through various parts of Bulgaria where he was studying social questions, the Θεατης has not been published".
These periodical papers contain four pages of four, six or eight columns each and have the form and size of modern newspapers (apart from the Πανδαισία and the 'Υγεία published in the form of a periodical).

The paper’s editorial, where there was one, was placed on the first page: it usually comments on internal or foreign events, and sometimes those of the community. Along with this appear foreign news, especially communications from the "Havas" agency, and dispatches from Greece. The interest shown by the Greeks of Bulgaria in the affairs of Greece proper can be seen from the fact that there was no Greek paper that did not dedicate at least one of its columns to news from Greece.

On page two we usually find internal Bulgarian news: reports from parliament (săbranie), government reports, news about the royal family, legislative decrees, various other pieces of news. Statements on the government’s programme, the King’s public address and the various legislative decrees were always in every newspaper, often in a supplement.

Local and community news is consigned to pages three and four; it contains reports by the local authorities and the Greek community on school examinations, the elections for the community elders, church festivals, theatrical performances, dances and all kinds of presentations of the Greek community, weddings, funerals, engagements etc. Also on page three is printed information on the Greek communities of other areas of Bulgaria, and frequently letters from readers on various community problems. The last two pages also contain, often in serials, excerpts from translations of literary works, and original philosophical, literary and archaeological treatises (see M. Apostolidis and Chr. Tsountas on the antiquities of Philippopolis in Φιλιππούπολις and Ειδήσεις τού Άλμου, Io. Nikolaou on the antiquities of Varna in Ὀδησσός, and s.o.). The fourth page is usually dedicated to various advertisements for shops and products.

These newspapers offer unique information on the state of Greeks in Bulgaria in face of the internal problems of Bulgaria and Greece: on their cultural, and also political activity.

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