

Annals

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 2002

I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. Research Programmes

In 2002, the research staff worked in IMXA's main field of activity: promoting research in areas that uncover the recent Balkan past and assist a better understanding of the developments which have shaped the current situation in the Balkans. The Institute's permanent and special research associates, whose work covers all the Balkan countries, focused their attention mainly on the history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with special emphasis on the second half of the twentieth century and the current Balkan scene, as it was shaped in the 1990s by the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

1. The collective research programme titled *Ανατολική Μακεδονία και Θράκη, 1941-1944. Οι παράμετροι, ο χαρακτήρας και οι συνέπειες της βουλγαρικής κατοχής στην περιοχή* was completed and the relevant book, written by Xanthippi Kotzageorgi-Zymari, George A. Kazamias, and Tassos Hadjianastasiou, was published. Both the results of the programme and the book were presented to the Greek public and the press on December. The book presents a comprehensive picture of all the aspects of the conquered people's life that were affected by the Bulgarian occupation of 1941-1944.

2. The research programme concerning the Albanian Chams of Greek Epirus during the twentieth century remains under way. The subject of the research is the first appearance of the issue in the 1920s, the several aspects it presented over the last decades, and its re-emergence in the 1990s, following the change of regime in neighbouring Albania. The programme is scheduled to last until 2004.

3. The research programme concerning the mutual relations between Bulgaria, FYROM, and Turkey is also under way, focusing on three main areas:

i) the political relations between Sofia, Skopje, and Ankara since 1990;

ii) trends in historiography in Bulgaria and FYROM, especially as regards the origins, language, and definition of Bulgaro-Slavo-Macedonism.

iii) The implications of a future rapprochement between Bulgaria and FYROM.

4. Another research programme is under way, in collaboration with the Russian State Archives of Contemporary History. The programme focus on the political, diplomatic, economical, cultural and military relations of the Soviet Union with the Balkan countries during the 1950s and 1960s. Its final aim is to edit for the first time a corpus of unknown Soviet documents shedding light on and substantiating the relevant relations. The publication of the relevant volume is scheduled to be both in Greek and in Russian.

2. Activities of Board members and research associates

The Director of the Institute, Mr Yannis Mourelou,

1. took part in a conference jointly organized by the French Defence Ministry's Service Historique de l'Armée de Terre and the Bulgarian Defence Ministry's Rakovski Centre on the theme of "Les politiques militaires en Europe au tournant du siècle (1870-1914)" (Sofia, 4-7 March) with a paper titled "Y a-t-il eu un impérialisme grec?";

2. took part in an international conference organized by IMXA and the Eleftherios K. Venizelos National Research and Study Foundation on the theme of "The Salonica Theatre of Operations and the Outcome of the Great War" (Thessaloniki, 16-18 April) with a paper titled "Le front d'Orient dans la Grande Guerre: Enjeux et stratégies", and also summed up the proceedings of the conference;

3. represented the Greek Military History Committee at a meeting organized by the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institute on the theme of "Building a Strategic Community through Education and Research" (Paris, 17-19 June).

External research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas

1. took part in a Balkan conference organized by the Goethe Institute in Belgrade on the theme of "Schreiben und Verstehen der Geschichte des Balkans" (Belgrade, 13-15 February) with a paper titled "Geschichtsschreibung auf dem Balkan";

2. took part in the “Salonica Theatre of Operations” conference organized by IMXA and the Venizelos Foundation with a paper titled “Από την προσδοκία στη διάψευση: Η συνθηκολόγηση της Βουλγαρίας στη Θεσσαλονίκη (29.9.1918)”;

3. took part in the 23rd Panhellenic History Conference held by the Hellenic History Society (Thessaloniki, 24-26 May) with a paper titled “Οι ελληνο-γιουγκοσλαβικές σχέσεις (1924-1929) στο πλαίσιο του γαλλο-ιταλικού ανταγωνισμού στα Βαλκάνια”.

Research associate Ms Xanthippi Kotzageorgi-Zymari

1. edited the monograph *Βουλγαρική Κατοχή στην Ανατολική Μακεδονία και τη Θράκη, 1941-1944*, Thessaloniki, IMXA and Paratiritis, 2002, to which she also contributed;

2. published two studies:

“Φιλία; Ναι. Να συγχωρήσουμε; Ναι. Να ξεχάσουμε; Όχι!: Προσωπική και συλλογική μνήμη από τις εμπειρίες της βουλγαρικής κατοχής στην Ανατ. Μακεδονία (1941-1944)”, *Πρακτικά της Γ΄ Επιστημονικής Συνάντησης “Η Δράμα και η περιοχή της. Ιστορία και Πολιτισμός”* (Δήμος Δράμας), Drama 2002, pp. 598-616;

“Καλλιτεχνικές εκδηλώσεις στις ελληνικές κοινότητες της Βουλγαρίας κατά το β΄ μισό του 19ου αιώνα”, *Πρακτικά του Β΄ Διαβαλκανικού Συνεδρίου “Οι πνευματικές σχέσεις του Ελληνισμού με τους Βαλκανικούς Λαούς”*, Komotini 2002, pp. 130-140;

3. read two papers:

“Η ελληνική στρατιωτική αποστολή στη Σόφια, 1918-1920: Οι τομείς, οι συντεταγμένες και οι μέθοδοι δράσης της και ο ρόλος της στην προώθηση των ελληνικών συμφερόντων στη Βουλγαρία και στο Συνέδριο της Ειρήνης”, at the “Salonica Theatre of Operations” conference organized by IMXA and the Venizelos Foundation in Thessaloniki (16-19 April) (in the press);

“Ο ελληνικός τύπος στη Βουλγαρία, 1878-1906”, at the international conference on “The Greek Press from 1784 to the Present: A Historical and Theoretical Approach” organized by the National Hellenic Research Foundation’s Centre for Neohellenic Research (23-25 May 2002, Athens).

Research associate Ms Eleftheria Manta

1. completed her monograph on the Moslem Chams of Epiros

(1923-2000) and submitted the manuscript for publication;

2. published a study titled “Η Αλβανία μεταξύ Ανατολής και Δύσης” in *Οι πνευματικές σχέσεις του Ελληνισμού με τους βαλκανικούς λαούς. Β΄ Διαβαλκανικό Συνέδριο. Πρακτικά*. Komotini 2002, pp. 205-210;

3. conducted research in the Foreign Ministry’s Historical Archive in Athens into the Second World War and the early postwar period, and used her findings in her monograph on the Chams.

Research associate Mr Ioannes G. Leontiades

1. co-directed, with Professor Basil Kondis, the European educational programme titled *Balkan History and Culture: Aspects of European Identity*, 12-19 May;

2. organized the 30th International Programme for Greek Language, History, and Culture, 28 July - 25 August;

3. edited *Balkan Studies* vol. 42, Nos. 1 and 2.

II. HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Institute for Balkan Studies is planning to set up a Centre for the Documentation of the History and Strategic of South-eastern Europe, for the purpose of collecting published and unpublished sources on the modern history of the Balkan countries, the culture of the Balkan peoples, and current developments in the Balkans, and making them directly available to anyone wishing to make use of them.

IMXA already has a historical archive, and makes the important historical material which it contains available to scholars: official (mainly diplomatic) and private documents, memoirs, and typewritten notes and comments by fighters and representatives of the Greek communities in Macedonia during the Macedonian Struggle. The photographic section of the archive contains a wealth of material relating to the political and social life of the Greeks of Macedonia in the late nineteenth and the early twentieth century. This material originally related to the presence and activity of the Greeks in the wider geographical area of Macedonia and all over the Balkan peninsula, mainly in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

In recent years, the archive collection has been augmented with a number of microfilms from the archives of the Foreign Office (Public Re-

cord Office), which provide useful information about the Balkan policy of Great Britain and the other powers and about the domestic political situation in the Balkan countries in the nineteenth century until the Berlin Conference. IMXA has also procured microfilms from the Foreign Office archives relating to contemporary Balkan history, specifically the critical decade of the 1940s. These documents come from the War Office (1944-1947) and the Foreign Office (1940-1950). IMXA has also procured a number of microfilms from the state archives of the United States, which relate to the Balkan countries and are being studied piecemeal. Since 1996, the Institute's research associates have systematically studied and recorded those relating to Greece in the period 1940-1954 (96 microfilms), and parts of those relating to Albania and Bulgaria. The Institute has also procured archive material from Germany relating to the political developments in Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece during the Occupation. Microreaders and microprinters are available on the premises.

In the near future, IMXA is planning to locate and obtain material from the public archives of the United States, the most important West European countries, and as far as possible, the Balkan and Black Sea countries. The final stage of the project will be to put all this material on the Internet, which will make the IMXA the premier centre for South-east European studies with regard to not only modern history but also current geopolitical, strategic, and economic affairs.

III. LIBRARY

The Institute's library is the only one in Greece that specializes in Balkan subjects. Its purpose is to offer the best possible service to scholars studying the history, politics, economics, culture, society, and intellectual life of the Balkan countries and peoples, as well as Greece's role in the region.

The material is selected according to strict criteria with regard to subject matter, and is written in Greek, one of the four main West European languages, any Balkan language, Russian, or Turkish. The collection is augmented by purchases and donations and through exchange agreements with scientific institutions both in Greece and abroad. Collaboration with these establishments extends to other activities as

well.

The library's holdings currently amount to about 25,000 titles, of which 820 are bibliographies, 1,100 dictionaries and encyclopaedias, 930 conference proceedings, 345 theses, and 1,600 pamphlets. This collection increases by some 500 new titles a year, and also includes approximately 300 rare books printed before 1875. Apart from all these, the library holds some 695 periodical titles (260 of them current), selected according to the criteria mentioned above.

The library has been fully computerized since 1991, using the Alexandrie software system. The thesaurus of key-words is bilingual (Greek-English), to give foreign scholars easy access the bibliography. The library is open to all scholars, but does not have a loaning policy. Photocopying facilities are available on the premises, so that readers may copy the material they need (in accordance with certain restrictions relating to the condition of the books). It is estimated that on average ten scholars visit the library every day.

After the collection was computerized, the periodical *Balkanike Bibliographia* ceased publication, and the librarian now indexes all the main articles on Balkan subjects in the periodicals that come into the library and the papers published in the conference proceedings. To date, 12,200 articles have been indexed and computerized.

The periodical titles are listed in the National Collective Periodical Catalogue of the National Documentation Centre (EKT) in both printed and electronic form. The library liaises with the EKT to supply photocopies of periodical articles, which it orders electronically through the EKT.

IV. LECTURES

On Wednesday 3 April, Mr Georgios Velenis, Professor of Byzantine Archaeology in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, spoke on: "Η επίδραση της Αγίας Σοφίας Θεσσαλονίκης στη ναοδομία της ευρύτερης περιοχής".

On Wednesday 24 April, Mr Jean-Maurice Ripert, French Ambassador to Greece, spoke on: "L'élargissement de l'Union européenne: Perspective pour les Balkans".

On Monday 27 May, Mr Grigoris Farakos, former General Secretary

of the Communist Party of Greece, spoke on: “Η ελληνική εθνική αντίσταση και η ανατροπή της”.

On Wednesday 12 June, Ms Alexandra Papadopoulou, Embassy Adviser in the Greek Foreign Ministry, and Mr Veniamin Karakostanoglou, Lecturer in Law in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, spoke on: “Αποστολές στο Κόσοβο και στη Βοσνία: η ανθρώπινη διάσταση”.

On Monday 25 November, Ambassador Murat Bilhan, President of the Turkish Foreign Ministry’s Centre for Strategic Studies, spoke on: “Tour d’horizon on the Balkan Questions Concerning Turkey and Greece”.

V. CONFERENCES

IMXA and the Eleftherios K. Venizelos National Research Foundation jointly organized an international conference on the theme of “The Salonica Theatre of Operations and the Outcome of the Great War” (Thessaloniki, 16-18 April). A total of thirty-nine scholars took part from six different countries. The conference was accompanied by a number of concurrent events involving the Greek Literary and Historical Archive, the French Defence Ministry, the Albert Kahn Museum in France, and the French Institute in Thessaloniki.

IMXA has been organizing conferences on ancient Macedonia ever since 1968. The seventieth in the series, Macedonia from the Iron Age to the Death of Philip II, was held in Thessaloniki from the 15th to the 18th of October, with seventy-two participants from twelve different countries. The proceedings also heralded the start of a series of celebratory events, which are due to culminate in December 2003 with the fiftieth anniversary of IMXA’s founding.

VI. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

1. School of Balkan Languages

During the academic year 2002/2003, 545 students attended the school in 60 groups, 60 per cent of which were converted into intensive groups (two separate academic semesters).

Albanian: 26 students in 5 groups

Bulgarian: 44 students in 5 groups

Romanian: 24 students in 3 groups

Russian: 136 students in 15 groups
 Serbian: 70 students in 8 groups
 Turkish: 238 students in 23 groups
 Greek: 1 student in 1 group

An effort was launched this year to set up an examination centre on the Institute's premises staffed by authorized representatives of the countries concerned. An agreement was reached with the St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia for the Bulgarian language, and the first examinations will be held in June 2003.

2. International Programme for Greek Language, History, and Culture

Between 28 July and 25 August, the Balkan Institute ran its 30th International Programme for Greek Language, History, and Culture for foreign scholars and students.

The programme helps to foster modern Greek studies at an international level and to promote Greece's interests, and was attended this year by 160 people from 35 countries in Europe, America, Africa, and Asia, most of them with scholarships from the Ministries of Culture and Education.

3. Balkan History and Culture: Aspects of European Identity

Between 12 and 19 May, the Institute for Balkan Studies organized a European seminar titled "Balkan History and Culture: Aspects of European Identity", for European educators in secondary and higher education.

The classes focussed on five main topics: the Byzantine heritage, the Ottoman legacy, the Enlightenment, the formation of the Balkan states, and contemporary issues.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

This year saw the publication of the foreign-language periodical *Balkan Studies* (ed. Prof. I. Mourellos), vol. 42, Nos. 1 and 2, Thessaloniki 2001, pp. 1-316.

The IMXA publications were exhibited, as they are every year, on the Institute's own stand at the 21st Panhellenic Book Festival, which was organized by the Publishers' Association of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki from 24 May to 9 June.