REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 2004

1. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. Research programmes

In 2004, 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 research programme concerning the Albanian Chams of Greek Epirus during the twentieth century was completed and the relevant book, written by Eleftheria K. Manta was published under the title: Οι μουσουλμάνοι Τσάμηδες της Ηπείρου (1923-2000). Both the results of the programme and the book were presented to the Greek public and the press. The book presents a comprehensive picture of all the aspects of the issue, beginning with its first appearance 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.

2. The research programme concerning the mutual relations between Bulgaria, FYROM, and Turkey remains 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.
Since July 2004 the Institute for Balkan Studies has participated in the Operational Programme “Information Society”. Axis 1.3 “Culture”, in the context of the 3rd Community Support Framework (CSF). The Institute launched the implementation of a project titled “Διάσωση, Αξιοποίηση και Προβολή Τεχνητών Ιστορίας του Νεότερου και Σύγχρονου Ελληνισμού” (Preservation, Evaluation and Projection of Historical Documents on Modern and Contemporary Greece).

The object of this project is to digitize and document a major part of the Institute’s collections of books, maps and loose documents, thus at once preserving them and making them known. Four of these collections have now been digitized: (a) the Library’s “Special Collection” (304 books, app. 83,000 pages); (b) the “Collection of Karamanlidika Books” (75 books, app. 33,000 pages); (c) the “Map Collection” (400 maps, of varying sizes, from the 16th to the 20th c.); and (d) the “Sources on Modern Macedonia Collection” (documents and photographs from the period 1837-1913, app. 6500 pages).

The documentation of these collections has progressed in tandem with their digitization, and the corpus of related texts is continually being enriched. A thesaurus (subject headings, key words) has been created for each documentation text, to facilitate reference and retrieval through the modern database created by the Institute specifically for this purpose. Both the documentation texts and the thesauruses have been developed and translated from Greek into French and English. This entire body of material —digitized collections and their related documentation texts— is now available to the public through the database at the Institute and on-line at: www.imxa.gr.

2. Activities of Board members and research associates

The Director of the Institute, Mr Ioannis Mourellos, took part in the following scientific meetings (the title of his papers in parentheses):


2. Το Κυπριακό υπό το φως των νέων εξελίξεων (“Μυθοποιώντας και απομυθοποιώντας το Κυπριακό” - discussion co-ordinator),
organized by IMXA, Thessaloniki, 19 May 2004.


Research associate Ms Eleftheria Manta


2. took part in the conference “Εχθρός εντός των τειχών: Όψεις του δωσιλογισμού στην Ελλάδα της Κατοχής και του Εμφυλίου Πολέμου”, organized by the Δίκτυο Μελέτης Εμφυλίων Πολέμων and ELIA, Samothrace, 2-4 July 2004, with a paper entitled “Οι μουσουλμάνοι Τσάμιδες της Ηπείρου και ο Β’ Παγκόσμιος Πόλεμος: Από την αλυτρωτική προπαγάνδα στην ενεργό δράση”.

3. took charge of the three-year research programme Διάσωση, αξιοποίηση και προβολή τεκμηρίων ιστορίας του νεότερου και σύγχρονου Ελληνισμού, which IMXA has undertaken to carry out in the framework of the European “Information Society” programme, 2003-2006;

4. taught Greek as a foreign language in the School of Balkan Languages.

Research associate Mr. Andrianos Papandrianos

1. searched from January to February in the Federal Archives in Yugoslavia (now Serbian-Montenegrin Archives), in which he collected material on the free Serbian zone in Thessaloniki, which has been the theme of his postgraduate work.

2. published the study “Νέα στοιχεία για ορισμένους Δυτικομακεδόνες απόδημους στη Βαλκανική Χερσόνησο και στην Πέστη” in Δυτικομακεδονικά Γράμματα 15 (2004) 269-278.


4. published the article “Karadordeva ulica u Atini I Kontina u Beogradu” (Karageorgi St. in Athens and Konti St. in Belgrade) in the Mitološki Zbornik 12 (Rača 2004) 69-72.
External research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas
1. took part in the AIESE’s Ninth International Conference on South-east European Studies (Tirana, 30 August–3 September 2004) with a paper titled: “Die griechisch-albanische Verständigung in den politischen Anchauungen von Neoklis Kazazis”;
2. took part in the conference organized by the Society for Macedonian Studies to mark the centenary of the Macedonian Struggle (Thessaloniki, 12-13 November 2004) with a paper titled: “Η πορεία προς το Ίλιντεν, ο αντίκτυπος της εξέγερσης του Ίλιντεν στην Ελλάδα και οι απαρχές της ένοπλης φάσης του Μακεδονικού Αγώνα”.

External research associate Mr Ioannes G. Leontiades
1. organized the 32nd International Programme for Greek Language, History and Culture, 24 July - 21 August;
2. edited Balkan Studies vol. 44, 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 Strategies 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 Southeast 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 25,500 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 1994, using the Alexandrie software system. The thesaurus of key-words is bilingual (Greek-English), to give foreign scholars easy access to 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.

This year the library’s holdings increased by 310 new entries, of which 105 were articles in periodicals and 205 monographs and encyclopaedias. Mr and Mrs Dale L. Nielson kindly donated to the library an eighty-four-volume encyclopaedia printed in St Petersburg in the late nineteenth century, which is one of the most precious holdings in our collection.

IV. LECTURES

On Wednesday 25 February, Mr. Vangelis Koufoudakis, Rector of the Intercollege in Nicosia, Professor Emeritus of Political Sciences at Indiana State University, USA, spoke on: “Κυπριακό: Ευρωπαϊκή
On Thursday 29 April, Mr. Ari Goldman, Professor in the Department of Journalism at Columbia University, USA, spoke on: “Religion in America and Europe: Comparisons and Contrasts”.

On Monday 24 May, Mr. Petros Themelis, Professor at the University of Athens, spoke on: “Αρχαία Μεσσήνη-Πρόσφατες έρευνες” [Ancient Messinia – Recent Research].

On Tuesday 2 November Mr. Konstantinos Svolopoulos, Member of the Academy of Athens, Professor at the University of Athens and Honorary Director of the Institute spoke on “Οι απαρχές του Αγώνα” [The Origins of the [Macedonian] Struggle].

On Wednesday 15 December, Mr. Georges-Henri Soutou, Professor at the Sorbonne, spoke on “La France et les Balkans de 1944 à 1955” [France and the Balkans in the maelstrom of the Cold War].

V. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

1. School of Balkan Languages

During the academic year 2004/2005, 597 students attended the school in 62 groups, 60 per cent of which were converted into intensive groups (two separate academic semesters).

Albanian: 20 students in 4 groups
Bulgarian: 71 students in 9 groups
Romanian: 67 students in 6 groups
Russian: 118 students in 15 groups
Serbian: 52 students in 9 groups
Turkish: 259 students in 22 groups
Polish: 5 students in 2 groups
Greek: 5 students in 1 group

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

Between 24 July and 21 August, the Balkan Institute ran its 31st 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 34 countries in Europe, America, and Asia, most of them with scholarships from the Ministries of Culture and Education.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

The following works were published in 2004:

The following collective work was published in 2004:

This year saw the publication of the foreign-language periodical Balkan Studies (ed. Prof. I. Mourellos), vol. 44, Nos. 1 and 2, Thessaloniki 2002, pp. 1-247.