

# *Annals*

## REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 2001

### I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

#### *1. Research programmes*

In 2001, 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 work titled *Ανατολική Μακεδονία και Θράκη, 1941-1944. Οι παράμετροι, ο χαρακτήρας και οι συνέπειες της βουλγαρικής κατοχής στην περιοχή* is in the press. 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. Directly connected with the presence of the Albanians and their potentially destabilizing role in the Balkans is the IMXA research programme concerning the Albanian Cams. The subject of the research is the re-emergence of the Cam question in the 1990s, following the change of regime in neighbouring Albania.

3. A 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.

Special attention will be paid to the progress of the relations between Skopje and Sofia following the elections of October 1998 in FYROM and the “resolution of the language dispute”. However, when the Kosovo crisis flared up, the two countries’ relations took a new turn as Bulgaria, anticipating the possibility that the Albanian element would prevail in FYROM and the country would collapse, in full accordance with Bulgarian national doctrine launched a strong cultural assault on FYROM, breaking up the OMO-Ilinden organization in Bulgaria and establishing a Bulgarian organization (RATKO) in FYROM.

Bulgaro-Turkish relations also entered a new critical phase, owing to the pro-Turkish propaganda being disseminated among the Moslems by the Turkish consular authorities in Bulgaria and the difficulty of getting the planned Turkish investments in Bulgaria off the ground. The latter problem creates opportunities for further economic penetration of Bulgaria by Greece.

4. Another research programme deals with the Turkish presence in Albania, the aim being to pinpoint and describe Turkish political efforts to gain a foothold in Albania and exploit the country’s strategic position on the west Balkan peninsula. It is anticipated that the investigation will cover the entire 1990s, starting with Albania’s participation in the Islamic Conference under Sali Berisa, and tracing the development of wider economic, military, and defence co-operation between the two countries, culminating in the important agreement for Turkey to upgrade the naval base at Vlorë and to push for Albanian membership of NATO.

#### *European research programmes*

In the framework of the Lingua, Action D programme, the Institute for Balkan Studies and the *Stichting Advies- en Begeleidingscentrum voor het Onderwijs in Amsterdam* (ABC) completed the Griffin project, a three-year Greek language course for secondary-school children in Holland.

Under the same programme, IMXA took part with more than fifteen European research institutes and universities, co-ordinated by the University of Hull, in a project titled “Small is Beautiful”: Less Widely Used, Less Taught Languages, and Mobility. The aim of the project is to

devise an innovative method of learning the less widely used EU languages plus Norwegian and Icelandic, in order to encourage greater student mobility among the EU member-states.

## 2. Associates' activities

Research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas

1. Took part in the 7th Greek-Bulgarian conference (Thessaloniki, 30-31 March 2001) on "Political, Intellectual, and Cultural Relations between Greeks and Bulgarians in the 18th-20th Centuries" with a paper titled "The Bulgarian Revolutionary and Intellectual Georgi Rakovski: His Views on the Greeks";

2. Regularly wrote and submitted reports on the developments in FYROM to the National Defence General Staff and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

3. Lectured, as an IMXA representative, on contemporary Balkan issues at the Military Academy.

Research associate Ms Xanthippe Kotzageorgi-Zymari

1. took part in the 7th Greek-Bulgarian conference organized by IMXA in Thessaloniki on 30 and 31 March with a paper titled "Education as a Means for Nationalistic Propaganda: The Bulgarian Policy of Assimilation in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, 1941-1944". It was published in Greek in the periodical *Peri Thrakis* 1 (2001) 193-205, under the title "Η εκπαίδευση ως μέσο εθνικής προπαγάνδας. Η βουλγαρική αφορμιοιωτική πολιτική στην Ανατ. Μακεδονία και τη Θράκη, 1941-1944";

2. Translated a corpus of Soviet documents concerning the Soviet Union's relations with the Balkan countries in the 1950s and 1960s for the institute's forthcoming publication *Σοβιετική Ένωση και Βαλκάνια στις δεκαετίες 1950 και 1960* (in the press);

3. Completed her research and wrote up her contribution to the Institute's research programme on the Bulgarian occupation of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace between 1941 and 1945; the relevant volume is now in the press;

4. Worked with the National Research Institute's Centre for Modern Greek Research on a research programme headed by Professor Loukia

Droulia to set up a database for the Greek press and compile an encyclopaedia of the Greek press from 1784 to 1996. Her brief was to write entries on the Greek newspapers of Bulgaria and some of the editors and journalists working for them.

Research associate Ms Eleftheria Manta

1. Wrote monthly reports for the National Defence General Staff and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about Albania and developments there from March onwards;
2. Wrote, together with associate Yannis Glavinias, a detailed report on the Turkish presence in Albania between 1990 and 2000 for the Ministry of Defence;
3. Wrote a detailed critical review of *Greater Albania: Between Fiction and Reality* by the Albanian Foreign Minister, Paskal Milo, for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
4. Wrote an article on Albanian nationalism up to the end of the Balkan Wars (“Ο αλβανικός εθνικισμός ως το τέλος των Βαλκανικών Πολέμων”), which was published in the periodical *Istorika*;
5. Wrote an article on Albania’s current political and strategic options (“Στο κατώφλι της Ευρώπης; Πολιτικές και στρατηγικές επιλογές της Αλβανίας”), which was published in the October issue of the periodical *Exoterika Themata*.

Special research associate Ioannes Leontiades

1. Read a paper at the 12th Panhellenic History Congress, Thessaloniki, 25-27 May 2001, on John Chortasmenos’s views on *basileia* (“Οι περί βασιλείας απόψεις του Ιωάννη Χορτασμένου”; in the press);
2. Co-directed, with Professor Basil Kondis, the European educational programme on “Balkan History and Culture: Aspects of European Identity” from 6 to 12 May 2001.

Regarding IMXA’s internal activities, in 2001 Mr Loukianos Hassiotis took part in the preparations for the international conference on the subject of the Macedonian Front and the outcome of the First World War, which will take place in April 2002. His monograph on the Eastern Federation (*Η Ανατολική Ομοσπονδία: δύο ελληνικές φεντε-ραλιστικές κινήσεις του 19ου αιώνα*) was published by Vanya. In April

Mr Hassiotis took part in an international conference organized by the German Institute for Oriental Studies in Beirut on the impact of the First World War on the south-east Mediterranean peoples. He also participated in a research programme run by the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle on refugees in the Balkans. It concluded in December with a two-day conference, at which Mr Hassiotis read a paper on Greek refugees from northern Macedonia. Lastly, he translated into Greek Philip Bell's *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe* for Pataki publications.

## 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 Record 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 from the Foreign Office archives microfilms 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 from the state archives of the United States a number of microfilms relating to the Balkan countries, which 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 archival 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 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. The library has been put together with a view to offering 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 the role of Greece in the wider area of the Balkans. The material is selected according to strict criteria and is written in Greek, one of the four main West European languages, any Balkan language, Russian, or Turkish. The collection is systematically augmented with purchases and gifts and through exchange agreements with research institutes both in Greece and abroad. Collaboration with these establishments includes other activities too.

The library currently holds about 24,500 publications (including bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, conference proceedings, dissertations and theses, and pamphlets), together with some 690 periodical titles, 260 of them current, selected according to the criteria mentioned above. It receives some 500 new titles a year. The library also has a special collection of rare books printed before 1875.

The IMXA library has been fully computerized since 1991, using the Alexandrie software system. The thesaurus of key-words is bilingual (Greek-English), to help foreign scholars access the bibliography. The library is open to all scholars, but since it 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 *Valkaniki Vivliografia* ceased to be published, and the librarian now indexes all the main articles on Balkan subjects in the periodicals which the library receives and the papers published in conference proceedings. To date, 11,500 articles and conference papers have been indexed and computerized. The IMXA library liaises closely with the National Documentation Centre (EKT), and the periodicals in its collection are listed in the EKT's national periodical catalogue in both printed and electronic form. IMXA is able to supply photocopies of articles from periodicals in the library's collection by ordering them from the EKT.

#### IV. LECTURES

On Monday 12 February, George Galavaris, Emeritus Professor of History of Art in the University of Megill, Canada, and corresponding member of the Athens Academy, spoke on: "Παραγωγή και διακίνηση εικονογραφημένων ελληνικών χειρογράφων στο Άγιον Όρος: εκφράσεις της ακτινοβολίας του".

On Monday 23 April, Vangelis Koufoudakis, Professor in the University of Indiana, spoke on: "Το Τρίγωνο Αθηνών - Λευκωσίας - Άγκυρας στην πολιτική της νέας αμερικανικής κυβέρνησης".

On Monday 2 April, Konstantinos Svolopoulos, Professor in the University of Athens and honorary director of the institute, spoke on: "Η σύσταση της Φιλικής Εταιρείας: μια νέα προσέγγιση".

On Monday 11 June, Mr Nikos Efthymiadis, honorary president of the Association of Industries of Northern Greece and Chairman of the Efthymiadis Group, spoke on: "Θεσσαλονίκη - Αθήνα - Βαλκάνια: Μύθοι και πραγματικότητες".

On Monday 18 June, Mr Pierre Voillery, French Consul General in

Thessaloniki, spoke on: “L'hellénisme et la renaissance bulgare: modèle ou matrice?”.

On Monday 12 November, Mr Dušan Bataković, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Greece, spoke on: “Kosovo: Obstacles and Expectations”.

On Monday 19 November, Mr Yannis Kartalis, editor-in-chief of the newspaper *To Vima*, spoke on: “Τα γεγονότα της 11ης Σεπτεμβρίου και οι επιπτώσεις τους στον ευρύτερο βαλκανικό χώρο”.

#### V. CONFERENCES

On 30 and 31 March, IMXA and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences held a joint conference on “Political, Intellectual, and Cultural Relations between Greeks and Bulgarians in the 18th-20th Centuries”. The purpose of the conference was to establish communication and an exchange of views between the scholars of both countries.

#### VI. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

##### 1. *School of Balkan Languages*

The School of Balkan Languages and Russian was established in 1963 and is the first and only school of its kind in Greece. The duration of all the courses is three years. The school year is eight months long, from October to the end of May. Graduates receive a special diploma certifying three years of study. The languages taught are Albanian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, and Turkish. Most of the students are postgraduates, Ph.D. candidates, students at military academies, and civil servants.

During the academic year 2001-2002, 461 students attended the school in 44 groups:

Albanian: 17 students in 4 groups

Bulgarian: 35 students in 3 groups

Romanian: 20 students in 3 groups

Russian: 109 students in 10 groups

Serbian: 53 students in 7 groups

Turkish: 227 students in 17 groups

An optional post-diploma fourth year is now being offered for four



languages: Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian, and Turkish. There is also a Greek language course for foreigners.

An innovation introduced in 1999 was repeated in the summer of 2000 and 2001 in the form of intensive month-long courses.

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

Between 29 July and 26 August, the Balkan Institute ran its 29th 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 140 people from 31 countries in Europe, America, and Asia, most of them with scholarships from the Ministries of Culture and Education.

### *3. Balkan History and Culture: Aspects of European Identity*

Between 6 and 13 March, 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. B. Kondis), vols. 41, Nos. 1 and 2, Thessaloniki 2000, pp. 1-384.

The IMXA publications were exhibited, as they are every year, on the Institute's own stand at the 20th Panhellenic Book Festival, which was organized by the Publishers' Association of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki from 25 May to 10 June.