

Patristic thought and tradition, in the sense of secure theological criterium, expressed through the preeminent linguistic organ of the Fathers of the Church, the Greek language, governed the thoughts and the opinions of most of the conferees. This resulted in the theologians' approaching the essence of the theological and ecclesiastical problems confronting them with greater practicality and security.

We mention here only a few of the basic themes which concern the Orthodox world today and which were the objects of the congress, regardless of the political or social conditions under which the Orthodox Church is called upon to serve not only its own peoples but the entire world: The substance and nature of the Church and its relations with the world; the position of the Orthodox Church in relation to its flock; the rebirth of the faithful in the present world; the problem of the Orthodox Diaspora; the missionary and pastoral witness of the Orthodox Church; the coexistence of catholicity and nationalism in the Orthodox nations; the problem of relationship between Church and State under different political regimes. These are some of the basic contemporary problems of the Orthodox Church which Orthodox theology, having as its guide the experiences of the Fathers of the Church, is called upon to confront not only from a scientific and critical perspective but from an experiential point of view. It is our hope that the goal of the Second Congress of Orthodox Theological Schools be completed through the publication, as soon as possible, of the relevant materials of the conference. These latter materials should prove to be the brilliant fruit of this theological struggle when put in the hands of scholars and at the disposal of the Orthodox Church; especially, of course, in the light of the Great Synod now being feverishly prepared by the Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

*Institute for Balkan Studies
Thessaloniki*

A. A. ANGELOPOULOS

IVth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CRETAN STUDIES

(Heraklion, Crete, 29 August - 3 September 1976).

The congress was held from the 29th of August to the 3rd of September 1976 in Heraklion, Crete; about 250 specialists from eighteen countries took part in it, and twenty Greek Institutions (universities, academic societies and research centres) were represented. The congress' reports were divided into three periods: i) Cretan civilization in Antiquity, ii) Cretan civilization during the Byzantine Age and under Venetian rule, and iii) Cretan civilization under the Turkish rule and in the twentieth century. The sessions of all the sections took place in the halls of the Venetian castle, which commands the harbour of Heraklion. The programme also included interesting excursions to the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, the Palace of Knossos, the Historical Museum of Heraklion and to archaeological sites in eastern Crete. Those attending the conference also had the chance to attend a theatrical production of Chortatsis' «Panoria» in the open-air theatre of the Venetian castle.

The first part of the congress embraced topics in ancient religion, topography and dialect, and also dealt with the relations of Crete with other Greek states (such as Cyprus, Pylos, Mycene, Achaia and Thrace), with the linear scripts A and B, etc. Reports were also made on the findings of research concerned with various archaeological areas in Crete (Chania, Ierapetra, Phaistos, Knossos, Zakro, Lasithi, Youkta).

In the second part were read papers on the Cretan theatre and on some of its writers (Stef. Sachlikis, Vits. Kornaros), on the problems of Venetian rule in Crete, such as the relations of the island with Venice, Cretan settlement in the Ionian Isles, and so on. Papers were also presented on various literati of the period (Mich. Louloudhis, Frangiskos and Emilios Portos, Kyrillos Loukaris et al.). In the same section the conferees studied the art of the period; thus they examined various churches, both Byzantine and post-Byzantine; Cretan painters (Bounialis, Poulakis, Meletios); fortifications; artists' guilds; codices and similar other topics.

In the third section, the participants were concerned first with topics on the folklore and philology of Crete, and then with Cretan scholars of the Diaspora and topics on the history and literature of the period: thus reports were presented on Solomos' «Kritikos», Kazantzakis' «Odyssey», the history of the church in Crete and Crete's foreign trade. Papers were also read concerning archival information on modern history of Crete: that is, Crete during the Revolution of 1821, the Cretan Revolution of 1866, the Macedonian struggle, etc. The importance of the historical archives that have been preserved was underlined, and finally various phases from the life of Eleftherios Venizelos were presented.

*Institute for Balkan Studies
Thessaloniki*

A. E. KARATHANASIS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SLAVIC STUDIES: 1976 CONVENTION

(St. Louis, Missouri 6 - 9 October 1976)

The congress of Slavonic Studies, convened in St. Louis, was organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) in conjunction with its sister society the Central Slavic Conference (CSC). The entire program took place under the auspices of the Universities of St. Louis, Missouri-St. Louis, and Washington, and the organization of the congress was undertaken by a ten member committee whose composition, under the chairmanship of Bernard Eissenstat (Oklahoma State University), was as follows: Will Adams, William Jewell College, Louis A. Barth, S.J., St. Louis University, Elizabeth M. Clayton, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Joseph Conrad, University of Kansas, William Fletcher, University of Kansas, George F. Jewsbury, Oklahoma State University, Max J. Okenfuss, Washington University, Charles E. Timberlake, University of Missouri, Ed. Williams, University of Kansas.

On the occasion of this congress, twelve academic societies had the opportunity of inviting their members to St. Louis, so that they could discuss, along with the