

THE FIFTH SYMPOSIUM OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINAR OF SOUTH-  
EASTERN EUROPE  
(Thessaloniki 1-7 September 1980)

The Theological Seminar of South-Eastern Europe was founded in 1970 and is annexed to the School of Theology of Heidelberg University, under the aegis of Professor Friedrich Heyer.

As its name and function suggest, this Seminar's aim is to stimulate theological studies on an academic level in the countries of South-Eastern Europe. Professors contribute to this aim from Theological Schools and Academies of all the Christian doctrines in the communist countries, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Roumania.

The Seminar's research concerns questions of practical theology and ecclesiastical history in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, with reference to the theological movement in general in the West.

The Seminar's fifth symposium took place at the beginning of September 1980 in Thessaloniki (Oraikastro), its host being the Metropolitan Neapolis' and Stavroupolis' Dionysios.

The main theme of the symposium was, "The Church as an Ark of Salvation and as factor of Peace", and some fifty papers were given.

The guest speaker was Mr. Athanasios Angelopoulos, Associated Professor at Thessaloniki University, who spoke on the subject, "The Apostolic Church of Thessaloniki, a Living Witness in Christ and in History".

After the close of the symposium, its participants visited Thessaloniki's Byzantine monuments, Mount Athos and Meteora.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

A. ANGELOPOULOS

"BULGARIAN AND GREEK ECCLESIASTICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS  
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES" (SYMPOSIUM)  
(Sofia 21-23 May 1980)

Under the initiative of the following Institutions in Sofia: the Theological Academy, the Institute of Ecclesiastical History and the Sofia Archives, a joint Greek and Bulgarian symposium was organised in Sofia in May 1980, on the highly interesting subject, "Bulgarian and Greek Ecclesiastical and Cultural Relations during the Middle Ages".

Papers were read at the Symposium by representatives of the Church of Greece, the Theological Schools of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Patriarchal Institute for Patristic Studies of Thessaloniki and the Orthodox Academy of Crete, on the Greek side; and on the Bulgarian side, by representatives of the Theological Academy, the Institute of Ecclesiastical History and the Sofia Archives.

The following communications were presented, in accordance with the programme, and gave rise to very interesting discussions.

*Athanasios Yeromihalos*, "The encyclical of Kallistos I, Patriarch of Constantinople, to the Bulgarian clergy, concerning the rites of baptism and confirmation" ~ *Hristo Kodov*, "Positive aspects of the development of Greek and Bulgarian relations" ~ *Panayotis Hristou*,

"The Byzantines' views on national and ecclesiastical language" ~ *Blagoj Ćifljanov*, "Byzantine worship, a spiritual link between Bulgarians and Greeks" ~ *Alexandros Papaderos*, "Eucharistic 'ὑπέρβασις' in history" ~ *Christo Stojanov*, "Byzantium and the baptism of the Bulgarians" ~ *Athanasios Angelopoulos*, "The fifteen martyrs of Tiveriopolis in Greek and Bulgarian spiritual tradition" ~ *Ioannis Anastasiou*, "Three Bulgarian neo-martyrs of the XVIIIth century" ~ *Trendafil Krastanov*, "Documents from Byzantine emperors regarding the archdiocese of Achris (Ochrid)" ~ *Totju Koev*, "Paulician and Messalinian elements in the bogomil movement" ~ *Emmanuel Konstantinidis*, "The policy of the Franks in Bulgaria under Boris" ~ *Archimandrite Nestor*, "Restoration and recognition of the Bulgarian Patriarchate by the Ecumenical and Eastern Patriarchates in 1235" ~ *Panayotis Hristinakis*, "The strengthening of Bulgarian consciousness during the liberation of the Bulgarian Slavs by the ecclesiastical courts in the XIth and XIIth centuries" ~ *Vasil Pandurski*, "Byzantium and Bulgaria—their relations in ecclesiastical art" ~ *Radko Poptodorov*, "Elements of Slavic law in Byzantine law" ~ *Dimitrios Gonis*, "Modern Greek translations of the Life of the Neo-martyr John of Belgrade, edited by Gregory Chablak" ~ *Slafčo Valčanov*, "The translation of the Septuagint as a basis of the Cyril and Methodian translation of the Old Testament" ~ *Nikolaj Kočev*, "Greek and Bulgarian cultural relations during the XIVth-XVth centuries. (Five orations by St. Gregory Palamas translated into the Bulgarian language)" ~ *Basileios Dendakis*, "On Photius".

Two papers on the programme were not presented, those of: *Vlasios Pheidas*, "The autocephalon of the Archbishop of Achris (Ochrid) on the basis of the Greek sources", and *Todor Savev*, "The Bulgarian Autocephalon and Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate during the VIIIth-Xth centuries".

The Metropolitan of Kitros, Barnabas Tzortzatos, gave as paper, which referred particularly to Greek and Bulgarian ecclesiastical relations during the last thirty years.

The main points to provoke discussion were as follows: The Bulgarians' Christianisation by free choice; the opposing policies of East and West regarding the national and ecclesiastical language of the peoples of the Hellenic-Roman Empire; in particular, the political and spiritual character of the Bulgarian king Boris and his contribution to the new ideological and spiritual orientations of the Bulgarian nation in the IXth century and afterwards; the spiritual, hagiological and liturgical elements common to the Greeks and Bulgarians as nations with the same religion through the ages; the need for exaltation of the positive spiritual elements shared by the two nations, with due regard, of course, to the negative aspects; the problem of the ecclesiastical administrative emancipation of the Bulgarian Church.

Particular emphasis was given, on the part of the Bulgarians in connection with the 1300th anniversary of Bulgaria's foundation, as a new and undeveloped state in 681 A.D., after Constantinople had given consent in the form of a *Pactum Federatum*.

It is to be hoped that this Symposium, the first of its kind, will be fruitful in promoting common meetings in the future.