

Abstracts

MARILENA KARAMOUI

THE FORUM AND THE COLUMN CONSTANTINI IN CONSTANTINOPLE: RELATED FACTS AND PROBLEMS

The Forum, its buildings and the Column Constantini, erected by emperor Constantin himself, in Constantinople, has been the subject of much writing and speculation. In this article, all available information has been collected, sources given and a detailed analysis made of all that has been written on the subject in an attempt to clear up all misunderstandings concerning the original form and decoration of the column, the exact shape of the surmounting statue and the position of the Chapel of St. Constantine, which was connected with the monument.

ALEXANDRU STĂNCIULESCU-BÎRDA

ONE HYPOTHESIS: THE DECIPHERMENT OF THE INSCRIPTIONS FROM MURFATLAR (BASARABI)

In my article I propose a series of phonetic values for the unknown cpi-graphic elements from Basarabi (Murfatlar) in Romania.

Using comparisons with various alphabets that were used in olden times, as well as through personal contributions, I obtained a certain number of translatable texts.

This led me to original interpretations concerning the elements of wall pictures from the Basarabi Monastery. Thus, I reached certain conclusions which somewhat differ from those of earlier researchers of this rupestrial complex in the Dobrudja region.

Basarabi (Murfatlar) Monastery and its annexes, which are built on chalky stone, was built about seven centuries earlier than it was previously believed (in the fourth century).

Among the people who lived inside this monastic complex was a large

number of natives who followed certain autochthonous cultural and religious traditions.

With the exception of a few brief intervals, Basarabi (Murfatlar) Monastery was occupied up to the eleventh or twelfth century, each period leaving its own mark on the rupestral writings of this place.

Besides autochthonous graphical signs, one also encounters Ancient Greek, Proto-Bulgarian, and Glagolitic characters.

My hypotheses try to penetrate the mysteries of the Dark Ages of the Balkan peninsula.

CONSTANTIN DOMINTE

THE DACO-ROMANIAN REGIONAL WORD 'TÎRȘ'

In this article a new etymological hypothesis concerning the Dacoromanian regionalism *tîrș* "1. conifer; 2. wand of the *călușari* (Romanian old rite dancers); 3. (vine) prop" is proposed, in connection with the Old Greek *θύρσος* "a wand wreathed with ivy and vine-leaves with a pinecone at the top", relative to the Dionysiac cult. The origin of this cult is considered Thracian by the majority of the Hellenic antiquity exegetes, so the author proposes *a common, Thracian etymology, though not attested*, for both the Dacoromanian regionalism and the Old Greek word. The Indo-European origin of such an *etymon*, of a *satem* phonetism, seems to be supported by the agreement to the Latin *furc(ul)a*, a word of *centum* phonetism, the last one signifying *inter alia* also "vine prop".

XENI BALOTI

NAPOLEON AND ALBANIA

The treaty of Campo-Formio (1797), concerning the disappearance of Venise, which had a privileged place in this region, conceded to France her possessions in the Ionian sea.

The pacha of Jannina realised with horror that neighbours in decline demanded to acquire more power, avid of ambition, action and militant glory.

Although the initial relations with the french agents were apparently very cordial, when the French - Turkish crisis broke out because of the expedition

to Egypt (1798), Ali Pacha thought that it was the right moment to enlarge his possessions at the expense of France, without stopping showing his faithfulness to the Orient.

The relations between Ali Pacha and France were restored when Napoleon reinforced the network of his diplomats in the European possessions of Turkey and named consul in Jannina (1806) François Pouqueville, former prisoner in Istanbul and an expert in the oriental affairs.

Ali hoped that the emperor would let him take possession of the Ionian islands, but by the peace of Tilsit (1807) conceded them again to the french domination and he had to wait for better days.

In the meantime, he intrigued with England but with no result. When Ali wanted to re-establish his relations with France, he couldn't succeed, because the circumstances had forced France to hand the Ionian islands over to the commissioners of the allied powers.

ANNA TABAKI

SOME THOUGHTS ON A PHANARIOTE ARCHIVAL COLLECTION. THE MOUROUZI COLLECTION

The archival collection under consideration reflects the life of the Mourouzi family, and especially some of their economic concerns, at a time when they had already risen to power. Information related to real estate constitutes an integral part of the material. Nevertheless, other matters are also reflected in the collection, such as the daily life of the family during the troubled years of the Greek War of Independence and their subsequent efforts towards integration within a new social order, either that of the Greek state or the Rumanian society.

DIMITRIS MICHALOPOULOS

THE MOSLEMS OF CHAMURIA AND THE EXCHANGE OF POPULATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY

The question of the Moslems of Chamuria was a serious one in the field of Greek-Albanian relations during the period between the two World Wars. Chamuria is the region of Epirus extended between Butrinto and the mouth

of the Acheron river and, eastward up to Mount Olytsika. In 1923 lived there 20,319 Moslems, generally considered as being of Albanian origin. Because of Italian pressure during the Lausanne conference, it was agreed that these Moslems would be exempted from the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey; the Greek government, in spite of its later reluctance, finally adopted this solution and so, the vast majority of them remained in their "ancestral homes". Nevertheless, the Albanian government complained that they did not enjoy the rights granted by the "constitution and the laws of Greece" and the whole matter was brought to the attention of the League of Nations. In 1928, the Council of the international organization did not agree with the Albanian positions.

In World War II, during the occupation of Greece by the Axis Powers, the Moslems of Chamuria collaborated with the Italians and the Germans in order to prepare the annexation of that region to Albania. But in 1944, when Epirus was liberated, they followed the withdrawing German troops and settled on Albanian soil.

IOANNIS STEFANIDIS

UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE GREEK - YUGOSLAV RAPPROCHEMENT, 1949-1950

The process of the normalisation of the Greek-Yugoslav relations, which covered a period of roughly two and a half years, could be regarded as consisting of two phases, distinguished from each other on account of two main factors: the degree of the Yugoslav leadership's determination to go ahead with a reversal of its antagonising, if not hostile, post-war attitude towards the Greek governments; and the extent to which both the American and the British governments were prepared to impress upon both Belgrade and Athens the need for better relations between them.

The expulsion of Yugoslavia from the Cominform in the summer of 1948 was instrumental in creating an inclination among the Yugoslav government to reconsider its policy towards Greece. Until early in 1950 there were signs of a change of heart in Belgrade, with most characteristic example the phasing out of the Yugoslav assistance to the Greek communist insurgents. The Greek governments showed an early interest in an improvement of relations with Greece's former friend and ally, but the Yugoslavs, being sensitive to Cominform castigations and internal communist party susceptibilities, opted for a cautious and often contradictory approach. The U.S. and the U.K. for their

part, although extremely interested in a Greek-Yugoslav rapprochement, they were even more anxious not to trouble Tito's first steps away from Eastern bloc orthodoxy. Therefore, their initial policy was to avoid to exert undue pressure on Belgrade regarding the improvement of relations with Greece. However, as the Yugoslavs were becoming increasingly dependent on Western aid to keep their economy afloat, the American and the British had less and less qualms to press the matter with the Yugoslav leaders.

After the formation of the Plastiras government in April 1950, the Yugoslavs seemed determined to re-establish normal diplomatic relations with Greece. This time, however, it was the Greek government that decided to have any improvement of relations deferred on account of the Yugoslavs' insistence on raising the issue of the "minority rights" of the Slav-speaking element in Greek Macedonia. Furthermore, the lack of progress in the matter of the return to Greece of the Greek children that were taken to Yugoslavia by the Greek insurgents, was a constant obstacle to the normalisation of relations between the two countries. The persistent efforts of both the Americans and the British failed to prevent the collapse of the rapprochement initiative that followed the hardening of the Greek attitude. The eventual breakthrough came in November 1950, when, under the strains imposed by the worsening international situation following the communist invasion of South Korea and the serious deterioration experienced by the Yugoslav economy, the Yugoslav leaders seemed rather anxious to see the rapprochement finally effected. Acting on the strong advice of the Americans and the British and after some practical evidence of Belgrade's good will, Venizelos' government proceeded to the re-establishment of normal relations with Belgrade, a development that at the height of the Cold War seemed to improve considerably the position of the Western powers in the sensitive area of the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean.

D. J. DELIVANIS

INTERNATIONAL LIQUIDITY CRISIS IN THE BALKANS IN THE THIRTIES AND IN THE EIGHTIES

On the basis of developments noticed until July 1987, it may be stressed that the crisis of international liquidity was more intensive in the thirties than in the eighties. As a matter of fact in the thirties, all Balkan states were obliged to stop the service and the reimbursement of their foreign debts, whilst

in the eighties only two were obliged to do so. It may be added that the continuation of the floating of foreign loans, except in the case of the two countries in difficulties, was secured. This development was rendered easier because the world economy was not disrupted in the eighties as it happened in the thirties inasmuch as the United States dollar in which the greatest part of foreign loans is issued has depreciated and as the prices in the eighties behaved better than in the thirties inasmuch as their average rose in 1987 by some 10%.

THÉANO TSIOVARIDOU

COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SOCIALIST INTEGRATION

The problem of socialist integration in the frame of COMECON is examined. In the beginning are analyzed on one hand the problems of integration, on theoretical point of view, and on the other the history of the foundation of COMECON. Following the evolution of the history of CMEA, it is used to be divided in discernible phases, according to changes in the political efforts to build up an integrated system. Namely, 1) 1949-1954 (Stalin's period), 2) 1954-1956 (coordination of plans), 3) 1956-1962 (severe political events), 4) 1962-1970 (creation of formal instruments of integration), 5) 1971-1973 (The Comprehensive or Complex Program), 6) 1973-1976 (period of stagnation in the integration progress), 7) 1976-1980 (integration is achieved through joint individual productivities). A special chapter concerns the Balkan countries. The conclusion of this article is that the complete economic integration is still far off, although a certain progress is achieved, especially in the creation of some institutions helping this integration.

PAOLO AGOSTINI

THE BALKAN WORD "KURVA" AND ITS ETYMOLOGY

The word *kurva*, 'meretrix; whore' is uniformly spread over a very large geographical area, from the Balkans to the Balto-Slavic area, occurring with very slight changes also in languages which differ greatly from each other, as

in Neo-Hellenic, Rumanian, Albanese, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Russian and so on.

The author's aim is to prove that the word in question originates from Ancient Greek, i.e. dor. κώρα~hom. κούρη~att. κόρη, <*κούρFa. Thus the borrowing, affected by the presence of the *digamma*, had its initial syllable lengthened either by the borrowing language(s), or by a peculiar pronunciation of the greek κοινή.