

# ***Annals***

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 1999**

### **I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

#### ***1. Research programmes***

In 1999, as always, the research staff worked on IMXA's main area 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. In 1999, the Institute published the findings of the research programme which IMXA had undertaken jointly with the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad on the subject of the Greek Communities in Bulgaria in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Institute's associates made every effort to document the presence and the activity of the Greeks of Bulgaria, using foreign and Greek primary sources, and to address all aspects of their presence and activity systematically and thoroughly. The result is *Οι Έλληνες της Βουλγαρίας. Ένα ιστορικό τμήμα του περιφερειακού ελληνισμού*, an important volume of 470 pages covering the history of the Greeks in the geographical area of modern Bulgaria from antiquity to the present day, their legal position, their anthropogeography and demography, the economic life of the Greek communities, Greek education, Greek associations, and the intellectual and cultural life of the Greeks there.

2. 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 brings together the findings of a research programme which IMXA carried out to fill a gap in contemporary Greek historiography and to present a comprehensive picture of all the aspects of the conquered population's life that were affected by the Bulgarian occupation of 1941-1944 and offer an

overall appraisal of it. Publication was delayed so that the material already collected could be supplemented with further published and unpublished documents from the United States and Germany. The seven parts of the book cover: i) the diplomatic activity behind the scenes and the start of the Occupation; ii) the establishment of the Bulgarian military and civil authorities and the Bulgarian administration of the area; iii) Bulgarian policy with regard to the Church, education, and language; iv) the economy; v) demography and the violation of human rights; vi) the local Greek population's resistance to the Bulgarian occupation authorities; vii) the behind-the-scenes diplomatic activity which engineered the end of the Occupation and the withdrawal of the Bulgarian civil and military authorities from Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. The book concludes with an appendix of maps and documents in Greek, English, German, and Bulgarian.

3. Another important and highly topical research programme is under way, concerning Kosovo and the Albanian population groups in the Balkans. Having already realised the importance of the Albanians north of the Greek border in the past and drawn attention to their presence in its publications, the Institute for Balkan Studies is returning to the subject a year after the end of the Kosovo crisis with a book which is the result of concerted efforts by its permanent and special research associates.

4. Directly connected with the presence of the Albanians and their potentially destabilising role in the Balkans is the IMXA research programme concerning the Albanian Cams, which is of vital concern to the Greek side. The subject of the research is the re-emergence of the Cam question in the 1990s, following the change of regime in neighbouring Albania. Of particular interest are the founding and the activity of the *Camëria* organisation, the way the Albanians are using the issue to pressure the Greek government and as a counterweight to Greek demands that the rights of the Greek minority be respected. The researchers are also paying special attention to the way the issue is being promoted abroad by the members of the Albanian diaspora in Europe and the United States.

5. A research programme concerning the mutual relations between Bulgaria, FYROM, and Turkey is also under way. The investigation is focusing on three main areas:

i) the political relations between Sofia, Skopje, and Ankara since 1990;

ii) trends in the historiography of Bulgaria and FYROM, with special reference to 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 attack on FYROM, breaking up the OMO-Ilinden organisation in Bulgaria and establishing a Bulgarian organisation (Ratko) in FYROM.

Bulgaro-Turkish relations also entered a new critical phase, owing to the pro-Turkish propaganda 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.

6. 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 latter's strategic position on the Balkan peninsula. It is anticipated that the investigation will cover the 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 Albania's membership of NATO.

7. The Institute has, lastly, planned a new research programme, which will deal with aspects of Greek-Albanian relations in the period 1945-2000. Albania's isolation from the international scene for more than four decades had an analogous effect on historical research. There are considerable gaps in our knowledge of the level, the problems, and the general course of Greek-Albanian relations from the end of the

Second World War onwards. It is these gaps that IMXA is seeking to fill with this research programme, which is already making satisfactory progress, but needs to be broadened in scope and to delve more deeply into areas which have not been fully examined by Greek historians. These include the developments immediately after the War until 1949, i.e. the events of the Greek Civil War, together with the Albanian and Yugoslav communists' involvement in it and the concurrent moves towards an overall resolution of the Yugoslav question. The Cam question was also prominent in this period, for the Cams had been expelled from Epiros in 1944 and were making efforts at an international level to secure their return to Greece. From the 1950s onwards, research into the restricted relations between Greece and Albania focuses on the Cam question, Greek claims to "Northern Epiros", the Greek minority in Albania, and the Albanian government's declared, but not implemented, policy of respect for the Greeks' ethnic and individual rights. The last part of the research programme concerns the critical decade of the 1990s, when the change of regime and the upsurge of Albanian nationalism had a direct impact on Greek-Albanian relations.

### *European Research Programmes*

In the framework of the *Lingua, Action D* Programme, the Institute for Balkan Studies and the Stichting Adviesen Begeleidingscentrum voor het Onderwijs in Amsterdam (ABC) worked together on the Griffin project, devising a three-year Greek language course for secondary-school children in Holland.

In the framework of 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 was 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-countries.

### *2. Associates' activities*

Research associate Mr Anastasios K. Iordanoglou

Took part in:

1. The 7th International Turkology Conference, which was organised by the Institute for Turkological Research (*Türkiyat Arastirmalari Enstitüsü*) in Istanbul, 8-12 November 1999, and read a paper on: "Dimitri P. Klimendithis Rumi'nin Grek Harfli Türkiçe siirleri" (The poems of Dimitrios P. Klimendithis of Asia Minor in the Turkish language in Greek script);

Published:

2. "Γραφικές μορφές στην Κωνσταντινούπολη", *Πρακτικά Επιστημονικής Ημερίδας*, Athens 1999, 179-188.

Research associate Mr Kyriakos D. Kentrotis

Took part in IMXA's Greek-language summer course for foreigners with a series of lectures for the seminar on "Greece and the Balkans: Geopolitical and International Relations", 23-27 August;

Gave a lecture on 8 December 1999 for the Association for Corfiot Studies in the Dionysios Solomos Museum on the subject of the Macedonian Question as presented in school textbooks in FYROM;

Published the following studies:

1. *Αεροναυτικές ασκήσεις στο Αιγαίο. Ελλάδα-Τουρκία. Διεθνές Δίκαιο και Γεωπολιτική*, Proskinio Publications, Athens 1999, 247 pp.

2. "Αναζητούμενες ισορροπίες στα Βαλκάνια. Η Βουλγαρία ανάμεσα στην Ελλάδα και την Τουρκία", C. Giallouridis and P. Tsakonas (eds.), *Ελλάδα και Τουρκία μετά το τέλος του Ψυχρού Πολέμου*, I. Sideris Publications, Athens 1999, 259-278.

3. "Η Γεωπολιτική δυναμική των αεροναυτικών ασκήσεων της Τουρκίας", *Γεωπολιτική 2* (December 1999) 32-37.

Research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas

Took part in:

1. The 3rd World Conference of Greek Research Institutes on Hellenism in the twenty-first century (Montreal, 28-31 May), with a paper on "Οι εξελίξεις στο Κοσσυφοπέδιο και την ΠΓΔΜ και η ελληνική στάση".

2. The 7th International Conference on South-east European Studies, which was organised by the AIESEE in Bucharest, 24-28 August, with a paper titled "The Albanian Question in FYROM after the Dayton Agreement".

3. The conference organised by the School of Political Science and History of the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences on *Greeks: From Varkiza to Grammos* (Athens, 20-23 October 1999) with a paper titled: "Μεταξύ συνεργασίας και αμοιβαίας καχυποψίας. Οι σχέσεις ΚΚΕ και ΚΚΓ από τη ρήξη Τίτο - Στάλιν μέχρι το τέλος του εμφυλίου".

Gave a lecture on 5 May at the Open University in Florina on "Κοσσυφοπέδιο. Αρχή και κατάληξη της Γιουγκοσλαβικής κρίσης".

Published:

1. "Foreign Policy and Ethnic Tensions in FYROM after the Greek-Skopje Interim Agreement", *Hellenic Studies* 1 (1999) 33-61.

Translated:

1. The collection of Bulgarian, Yugoslavian, and Russian documents and edited their publication in: Basil Kondis and Spyridon Sfetas (eds.), *Εμφύλιος Πόλεμος. Έγγραφα από τα Γιουγκοσλαβικά και βουλγαρικά αρχεία*, Thessaloniki: Paratiritis 1999.

2. Twenty-eight Russian documents in the collective work: V. G. Afinian, B. Kondis, K. Papoulidis, N. D. Smirnova, and N. Tomilina, *Οι σχέσεις ΚΚΕ και ΚΚ Σοβιετικής Ένωσης στο διάστημα 1953-1977*, Thessaloniki: IMXA and Paratiritis 1999, 342 pp.

Research associate Ms Xanthippe Kotzageorgi-Zymari

Represented the Institute on 4 May at the 3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for the Study and Development of the Greek Culture of the Black Sea, which was held in the Thessaloniki Prefecture Cultural Centre.

Edited:

1. *Οι Έλληνες της Βουλγαρίας. Ένα ιστορικό τμήμα του περιφερειακού ελληνισμού*, Thessaloniki: IMXA 1999, 468 pp., also writing the introduction and the chapters: "Οι Έλληνες της Βουλγαρίας σε αριθμούς, 1879-1934", pp. 121-199; "Η ελληνική εκπαίδευση στη Βουλγαρία, αρχές 19ου αι. - 1912", pp. 251-373; "Σωματειακή οργάνωση - Κοινωνικός βίος - Πολιτισμός (μέσα 19ου αι. - αρχές 20ού)", pp. 375-451.

2. *Οι σχέσεις ΚΚΕ και ΚΚ Σοβιετικής Ένωσης στο διάστημα 1953-1977*, Thessaloniki: IMXA and Paratiritis 1999, 342 pp., also translating documents 48-76 (pp. 238-325).

Research associate Ms Eleftheria Manta

Took part in:

1. The pre-conference meeting for the 2nd Interbalkan Conference on the spiritual relations between the Greeks and the Balkan peoples in the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, which was jointly organised by the Komotini Pedagogical Sciences Association and the Demokritos University of Thrace in Komotini on 18 September 1999.

Published:

1. “Η Αλβανία στον 20ό αιώνα: ‘Εκατό χρόνια μοναξιάς’ ”, *Αγορά χωρίς σύνορα* 4/4 (1999) 243-254.

Acted as historical adviser for a historical documentary series on the Balkan peoples, which was directed by Tassos Psarras and broadcast by ET-3 (December 1999 - February 2000), and for which she also wrote a script about Albania.

Research associate Mr Ioannes G. Leontiades

Took part in the 20th Panhellenic History Conference organised by the Greek Historical Association in Thessaloniki, 28-30 May, with a paper on “Ένα ‘νέο’ κάτοπτρο ηγεμόνα”.

Co-directed, with Professor Basil Kondis, the European educational programme on “Byzantine History: A Means of Understanding European Cultural Identity”, 7-14 March.

## II. HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Institute for Balkan Studies has planned the setting-up of a Centre for the Documentation of the History and Strategics 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 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 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 specialises in Balkan subjects. The Library has been put together with a view to offering the best possible service to scholars studying the history and culture of the Balkan countries and peoples and, more specifically, the political, intellectual, and economic activity of the Greeks in the wider



area of the Balkans. The material is selected and ordered and gifts are accepted according to strict criteria. Apart from the Greek publications, most of the recently acquired books are written in one of the Balkan languages or Russian. The collection also includes numerous books written in one of the four main West European languages, English, French, German, or Italian. The Library currently has more than 23,200 volumes (18,500 books, 1,500 pamphlets, 1,050 dictionaries and encyclopaedias, 750 bibliographies, proceedings of 820 conferences, and 280 dissertations and theses), together with 680 titles of periodicals, some 260 of them current, focusing mainly on South-eastern Europe. It receives some 500 new volumes a year. The Library also has a special collection of 300 volumes with publications printed before 1875.

The IMXA Library is in contact and has exchange agreements with research institutes and libraries all over the world, and at the same time is systematically augmented with purchases and gifts. It has been fully computerised for the past two years, using the Alexandrie software system. A number of computers are available for readers' use. The library catalogue has been compiled in Greek and English. Also, since the Library does not lend books, photocopying facilities are available on the premises. It is estimated that on average ten to fifteen scholars specialising in Balkan subjects visit the library every day.

The collection has been catalogued on the Anglo-American system. Since 1991 —when *Βαλκανική Βιβλιογραφία* ceased to be published—the librarian has been indexing all the articles on Balkan-related subjects in periodicals and collective works. To date, 9,300 articles and conference papers have been indexed. The IMXA Library liaises closely with the National Documentation Centre (EKT) and the periodicals in its collection are listed in the EKT's special printed and electronic catalogues. The catalogue is updated annually by the IMXA librarian, and IMXA is able to supply photocopies of articles from periodicals in the IMXA Library's collection which are ordered through the EKT.

#### IV. LECTURES

IMXA hosted the following lectures in 1999.

1. On 13 October, Professor Milan Ristovic of Belgrade University spoke on: "The History of the Children in the Greek Civil War in Yugoslavia".

2. On 22 November, Mr Pavlos Mylonas, Academician, spoke on: “Επαλληλία Ναών. Μία συνήθης διαδικασία. Η ιδιάζουσα περίπτωση του Οσίου Λουκά Φωκίδος. Παλαιότερες και πρόσφατες παρατηρήσεις που οδηγούν στην επισήμανση τεσσάρων ναών και στη χρονολόγησή τους”.

3. On 29 November, Professor Theodoros Kouloubis of Athens University spoke on: “Προτεραιότητες για την Ελληνική Εξωτερική Πολιτική”.

## V. 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 post-graduates, Ph.D. candidates, students at military academies, and civil servants.

During the academic year 1999-2000, 329 students studied all six languages in 23 groups:

- Two Albanian groups with 12 students
- Three Bulgarian groups with 39 students
- Three Romanian groups with 26 students
- Four Russian groups with 76 students
- Four Serbian groups with 55 students
- Seven Turkish groups with 121 students

An innovation was introduced in the summer of 1999 in the form of intensive month-long courses: 16 students attended, making up three groups.

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

Between 1 and 29 August, the Balkan Institute ran its 27th 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 our country's interests, and was attended this year by 158 people from 37 countries (in Europe, America, and Asia), most of them with scholarships from the Ministries of Culture and Education.

Every year, the Programme —which was a resounding success, based in the Xenia Helios Hotel in Peraia— makes our city a meeting-place for people from all over the world wishing to study the Greek language and Greek culture.

The Programme comprised four hours of language study daily at three levels, conscientiously attended by all the participants; courses in modern Greek literature and history and Byzantine and Classical archaeology in Macedonia; open discussions with professors, specialists, scholars, and experts on Greek history and culture, with special reference to the problems facing the Greeks today and particularly the problems relating to Macedonia and its history; excursions to archaeological sites; guided tours of museums; a shadow-theatre performance; and Greek folk-dancing lessons. As far as possible, the Programme also included unscheduled evening get-togethers to help the participants get to know each other better.

### 3. *Byzantine History:*

#### *A Means of Understanding European Cultural Identity*

Between 7 and 14 March, the Institute for Balkan Studies organised a European Programme titled *Byzantine History: A Means of Understanding European Cultural Identity* for Greek and foreign educators in secondary and higher education.

The Programme helps to promote Greek studies at an international level, and was taught by professors in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with nineteen educators from nine member-countries of the Council of Europe participating.

It involved six hours daily of classes in Byzantine history, archaeology, and art (some of which were held on archaeological sites and in museums), with special reference to the relations between the Byzantine Empire and Central, Eastern, and Western Europe.

## VI. PUBLICATIONS

This year saw the publication of the foreign-language periodical *Balkan Studies* (ed. Prof. B. Kondis), vol. 39, No. 2, Thessaloniki 1998, pp. 181-373, and of IMXA's Greek-language periodical *Βαλκανικά Σύμμεικτα* (ed. Georgia Bitsiadou), vol. 10, Thessaloniki 1998, pp. 322.

Of the independent and collective works published by the Balkan Institute, the following came out in 1999.

1. Chatzivasileiou, Evanthis: *Ελευθέριος Βενιζέλος, η ελληνοτουρκική προσέγγιση και το πρόβλημα της ασφάλειας στα Βαλκάνια, 1928-1931*, pp. 130 (No. 270).

2. Kotzageorgi, Xanthippe (ed.), *Οι Έλληνες της Βουλγαρίας. Ένα ιστορικό τμήμα του περιφερειακού ελληνισμού*, pp. 468 (No. 271).

3. Svolopoulos, Constantin, and Gregori Ars, *Alexandre Ypsilanti. Correspondance inédite, 1816-1828*, pp. 143 (No. 268).

4. *Ancient Macedonia: Papers read at the Sixth International Symposium held in Thessaloniki (October 15-19, 1996)*, Ioulia Vokotopoulou in Memoriam, vol. I, pp. 1-704, vol. II, pp. 705-1,397 (No. 272).

5. Xyngopoulos, Andreas, *Θεσσαλονίκη Μελετήματα (1925-1979)*, pp. 581 (No. 273).

6. Milan Ristic, *A Long Journey Home: Greek Refugee Children in Yugoslavia, 1948-1960*, pp. 138 (No. 274).

7. V. Karakostanoglou, K. Kentrotis, E. Manta, and S. Sfetas, *Το Κόσοβο και οι αλβανικοί πληθυσμοί της Βαλκανικής*, pp. 468 (No. 275).

IMXA and the State Archives of the Russian Federation jointly published the collective work: V. G. Afinian, B. Kondis, K. Papoulidis, N. D. Smirnova, and N. Tomilina, *Οι σχέσεις ΚΚΕ και ΚΚ Σοβιετικής Ένωσης στο διάστημα 1953-1977* (Paratiritis), pp. 342.

The IMXA publications were exhibited, as they are every year, on the Institute's own stand at the 18th Panhellenic Book Festival, which was organised by the Publishers' Association of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki from 21 May to 6 June 1999.