

# ***Annals***

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 2000**

### **I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

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

In 2000, 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 brings together the findings of a research programme which IMXA carried out to fill a gap in contemporary Greek historiography, to present a comprehensive picture of all the aspects of the conquered people's life that were affected by the Bulgarian occupation of 1941-1944, and to 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 Publication was delayed so that the material already collected could be supplemented with further published and unpublished documents from the United States and Germany.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 Greeks' resistance to the Bulgarian occupation authorities; and 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.

2. Another important and highly topical research programme completed in 2000 concerned 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 with its publications, the Institute for Balkan Studies returned to the subject a year after the end of the Kosovo crisis with a book which is the result of concerted efforts by permanent and special research associates. The 496-page volume is titled *Το Κόσσοβο και οι αλβανικοί πληθυσμοί της Βαλκανικής* and offers a thorough, dispassionate, rigorously scientific analysis of the events which led to escalating tensions and international intervention, presents the international political and legal aspects of the issue, and assesses how far the other Balkan nations (mainly Albania, Fyrom, and Bulgaria) played a part in the crisis and its repercussions for them.

3. 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* organization, and 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 Albanian diaspora in Europe and the United States.

4. 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.

5. 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 Berisha, 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.

6. 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 a research programme that is already making satisfactory progress, but needs to be broadened in scope and to delve more deeply into areas which Greek historians have not fully examined. 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 com-

munists' involvement in it and the concurrent moves towards an overall resolution of the Yugoslav question. From the 1950s onwards, research into the restricted relations between Greece and Albania focuses on Greek claims to "Northern Epiros", the Greek minority in Albania, and the Albanian government's declared, but unimplemented, 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 Advies- en 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.

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 Anastasios K. Iordanoglou

Took part in:

1. A Panhellenic conference on "Cappadocia: History, Theology, Education, and Culture", organized by the School of Pastoral Studies and Social Theology, Faculty of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, on 22-24 September, with a paper titled "Σελίδες από την ιστορία της Νεάπολης (Nevsehir)".

2. The 1st Conference of the Thessaloniki Association of Greeks from Istanbul on 25 and 26 November, with a paper titled: "Οι ομογενείς στον τουρκικό στρατό μετά τη συνθήκη της Λωζάνης".

Published:

1. “Οι Σέρρες και η ευρύτερη περιοχή τους στις οθωμανικές επετηρίδες, τέλη 19ου αιώνα - αρχές 20ού”, *Πρακτικά Β΄ Επιστημονικού Συμποσίου (Νιγρίτα, 17-20 Οκτωβρίου 1996)*, Thessaloniki 2000, 293-299.

Research associate Mr Kyriakos D. Kentrotis

Published:

1. “Γεωπολιτική των δικτύων ενέργειας και μεταφορών στα Βαλκάνια: η περίπτωση της Βουλγαρίας”, in: Ministry of National Defence, Staff of the Minister for National Defence, *Η Γεωπολιτική της Ευρασίας στο νέο διεθνές σύστημα*, Athens 2000, 80-98.
2. “Η Βουλγαρία και το ζήτημα του Κοσσυφοπεδίου”, in: V. Karakostanoglou, K. D. Kentrotis, E. Manta, and S. Sfetas, *Το Κόσοβο και οι αλβανικοί πληθυσμοί της Βαλκανικής*, IMXA (275), Thessaloniki 2000, 361-384.

Research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas

Took part in:

1. A conference on “Greece and Albania in the 19th and 20th Centuries”, organized by IMXA in Thessaloniki on 12-13 May, with a paper titled: “The Albanian Factor in the Context of the Relations between Greece and Fyrom”.

Published:

1. “Κόσοβο: Αφετηρία και κατάληξη της Γιουγκοσλαβικής κρίσης” and “Ο αλβανικός παράγοντας των Σκοπίων μετά τη συμφωνία του Ντέιτον”, in: *Το Κόσοβο και οι αλβανικοί πληθυσμοί της Βαλκανικής*, Institute for Balkan Studies, Thessaloniki 2000, pp. 15-55 and 327-360 respectively.

Research associate Ms Xanthippe Kotzageorgi-Zymari

Accepted an honorary position in April on the newly established editorial committee of the periodical *Thrakika*, which is published by the Thracian Centre and the Society for Thracian Studies in Athens.

Took part in:

1. The 2nd Interbalkan Conference on “The Spiritual Relations between the Greeks and the Other Balkan Peoples (18th-20th cc.),

organized in Komotini on 20-22 October by the Komotini Society for Pedagogical Sciences and the Democritus University of Thrace, with a paper titled: “Καλλιτεχνικές εκδηλώσεις στις ελληνικές κοινότητες της Βουλγαρίας κατά το δεύτερο μισό του 19ου αιώνα”.

2. A bilateral Greek and Bulgarian conference on “Thessaloniki and Plovdiv on Parallel Paths: History, Art, and Society (18th-20th cc.)”, organized in Thessaloniki on 4-8 December, with a paper titled: “Η πνευματική και πολιτιστική κίνηση των Ελλήνων της Φιλιππουπόλεως κατά τον 19ο αιώνα”, which was published on pp. 321-339 of the conference proceedings.

Published:

1. “Memories of the Bulgarian Occupation of Eastern Macedonia: Three Generations” in the collective work: *After the War was Over: Reconstructing the Family, Nation and State in Greece, 1943-1960* (ed. Marc Mazower), Princeton: Princeton University Press 2000, 273-293.

2. “Η βουλγαρική κατοχή στην Ανατολική Μακεδονία και τη Θράκη”, in: *Ιστορία του Ελληνικού Έθνους*, vol. XVI, Athens 2000, 64-71.

Research associate Ms Eleftheria Manta

Took part in:

1. A conference on “Youth, Defence, and the Greek Border Areas”, jointly organized by IMXA and the Thracian Fund under the aegis of the Ministry of National Defence in Thessaloniki on 27 March, with a paper titled: “Διαχρονία και συγχρονία ως μέρος της βασικής εκπαίδευσης των Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων”.

2. The 9th International Summer Seminar on “Kosovo and Beyond: The Day After”, organized by the Institute for International Relations on Hydra on 3-6 July, with a paper titled: “The Albanian Question: The Historical Background”.

3. The 2nd Interbalkan Conference on “The Spiritual Relations between the Greeks and the Other Balkan Peoples (18th-20th cc.)”, organized in Komotini on 20-22 October by the Komotini Society for Pedagogical Sciences and the Democritus University of Thrace, with a paper titled: “Η Αλβανία μεταξύ Ανατολής και Δύσης”.

4. A conference on “Greece’s Role as a Stabilising Factor in the Balkans and South-Eastern Europe”, organized by the Thessaloniki Military

Academy on 22 and 23 November, with a paper titled: "Η επανεμφάνιση του ιταλικού στρατηγικού ενδιαφέροντος στη Βαλκανική".

Published:

1. "Η Αλβανία σε αναζήτηση νέου στρατηγικού ρόλου στη Βαλκανική", *Geopolitiki* 5 (March 2000) 50-55.

2. "Η νέα ιταλική «Ostpolitik» και η στρατηγική θέση της Αλβανίας", *Geopolitiki* 11 (October 2000) 34-41.

3. "Αλβανία και Κοσσυφοπέδιο: Από την απομόνωση στη δυναμική της ενσωμάτωσης", in: *Το Κόσοβο και οι αλβανικοί πληθυσμοί της Βαλκανικής*, Institute for Balkan Studies, Thessaloniki 2000, pp. 271-326.

Special research associate Mr Ioannes G. Leontiadis

Co-directed, with Professor Basil Kondis, two European educational programmes: "Byzantine History: A Means of Understanding European Cultural Identity", 5-12 March; and "Balkan History and Culture: Aspects of European Identity", 14-21 May.

## 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 24,000 publications (including bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, conference proceedings, dissertations and theses, and pamphlets), together with some 680 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 computerised 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, 11,000 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

IMXA hosted the following lectures in 2000.

1. On 21 February, Professor Panayotis Vocotopoulos, Academician, spoke on: "Η εκκλησιαστική αρχιτεκτονική στην Κάτω Ελλάδα κατά την μέση Βυζαντινή περίοδο".
2. On 3 March, †Nikolaos Ikonomidis, Professor in the University of Athens, spoke on: "Η Μονή της Πάτμου, η Βιβλιοθήκη της και ο οικονομικο-κοινωνικός της ρόλος ως το 1204".
3. On 29 March, Ljubomir Maksimovic, Academician and Professor

in the University of Belgrade, spoke on: "Τί σημαίνει Έλληνας στις σερβικές πηγές του Μεσαίωνα;"

4. On 19 April, Mr Diamandis Triandafyllou, Inspector of Antiquities, spoke on: "Αρχαιολογικές έρευνες στην οροσειρά της Ροδόπης".

5. On 31 May, Ioannis Mourellos, Associate Professor in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Director of IMXA, spoke on: "Η Θεσσαλονίκη και η στρατηγική των περιφερειακών επιχειρήσεων κατά τον Α΄ Παγκόσμιο Πόλεμο".

6. On 5 December, Larry Wolff, Professor of History in Boston College, spoke on: "The Drama of Identity in Eastern Europe".

## V. CONFERENCES

On 12 and 13 May, IMXA and the Tirana Institute for Balkan Studies held a joint conference on "Greece and Albania in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries". Twenty-four Greek and Albanian scholars took part, with papers covering a wide range of subjects connected with Greek-Albanian relations and a variety of scholarly fields. More specifically, new data were presented on: i) Greek-Albanian relations at the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 1821 and in the early years of the Greek state; ii) Greek-Albanian relations during the inter-war period, immediately after the Second World War, and during the Greek Civil War; and iii) the context in which Greek-Albanian relations have developed since the collapse of communism and the massive influx of Albanians into Greece. There were also some interesting studies on historical Greek communities living in Albania and the Greek minority there in the twentieth century, as also papers on the influence of Greek literature from Antiquity to the present day on the Albanian enlightenment and on the shaping of contemporary cultural communication between the Albanian and the Greek people.

## 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 2000-2001, 426 students attended the School in 35 groups:

Albanian: 15 students in 3 groups

Bulgarian: 42 students in 4 groups

Romanian: 21 students in 3 groups

Russian: 96 students in 6 groups

Serbian: 72 students in 6 groups

Turkish: 180 students in 13 groups

As of this year (2000-2001), an optional post-diploma fourth year is 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 in the form of intensive month-long courses: 56 students attended, making up seven groups.

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

Between 30 July and 27 August, the Balkan Institute ran its 28th 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 151 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 made room for 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 5 and 12 March, the Institute for Balkan Studies organized a European programme titled "Byzantine History: A Means of Understanding European Cultural Identity", for European educators in secondary and higher education.

Eleven educators from seven member-countries of the Council of Europe took part in the programme, which helps to promote Greek studies at an international level.

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 Europe.

## VII. PUBLICATIONS

This year saw the publication of the foreign-language periodical *Balkan Studies* (ed. Prof. B. Kondis), vol. 40, Nos. 1 and 2, Thessaloniki 1999, pp. 1-444.

The IMXA publications were exhibited, as they are every year, on the Institute's own stand at the 19th Panhellenic Book Festival, which was organized by the Publishers' Association of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki from 25 May to 11 June.