

A n n a l s

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE IN 2003

Anniversary celebrations

In March 2003 the Institute for Balkan Studies reached its half century. The only institute of its kind in Greece and the oldest in south-eastern Europe, IMXA's wide-ranging activities—which include publishing, conferences, research programmes, teaching Balkan languages and Russian, and running the International Greek Language, History, and Culture Programme—have contributed greatly to knowledge and understanding of Greece's neighbours.

A number of events were held between October 2002 and December 2003 to mark the institute's fiftieth anniversary, their variety and scientific import admirably reflecting IMXA's diverse activities.

The crowning moment of the celebrations was a visit to the institute by the then President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Konstantinos Stefanopoulos, on 26 October 2003. The president of the institute, Professor Basil Kondis, and the director, Associate Professor Ioannis Mourellos, delivered addresses, after which the vice-president, Mr Ioannis Koliopoulos, spoke on the subject of "Greece, the Balkans, and Europe: Old and new realities".

I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. Research programmes

In 2003, 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 research programme titled *Σοβιετική Ένωση και Βαλκάνια στις δεκαετίες 1950 και 1960* was successfully completed and the resulting books, both in Greek and in Russian, were published. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Russian State Archives of Contemporary History and focused on the Soviet Union's political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, and military relations with the Balkan countries, including Greece. The ultimate aim was to publish for the first time a corpus of hitherto unknown Soviet documents that shed light on these relations and substantiate them. The Greek and Russian publications were presented both to the Greek public and to the press.

2. The research programme concerning the Albanian Chams of Greek Epirus during the twentieth century remains under way. The subject of the research is the first appearance of the issue in the 1920s, the several aspects it presented over the last decades, and its re-emergence in the 1990s, following the change of regime in neighbouring Albania. The programme is scheduled to last until 2004.

3. The 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.

2. Activities of Board members and research associates

The Director of the Institute, Mr Ioannis Mourellos, took part in the following scientific meetings (the title of his paper in parentheses):

1. "Nautical Archives and Historical Science" ("Πρωτογενείς πηγές και ιστορική έρευνα. Η σημασία των στρατιωτικών και ναυτικών αρχείων"), organized by the Naval Academy and the Historical and Ethnological Association of Greece, Athens 22 February 2003;

2. "Les Problèmes de sécurité et de coopération militaire en Europe

de 1919 à 1955” (“Le Pacte tripartite anglo-franco-turc d’octobre 1939 et ses problèmes de mise en application”), organized by the Saint-Cyr Military Academy, Coëtquidan, 25-26 March 2003;

3. “La France et la Grèce dans le monde au temps de de Gaulle et Karamanlis” (“Le Fondement du discours Gaullien vis-à-vis de l’Orient méditerranéen”), organized by the Charles de Gaulle Foundation and the Constantine Karamanlis Foundation, Paris, 27-28 March 2003;

4. “Greek-Serbian relations in the first half of the twentieth century” (summary of the proceedings), organized by IMXA and the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences, Thessaloniki, 8-9 May 2003.

He was a member of the organizing committee for all the institute’s scientific and anniversary events in 2003.

External research associate Mr Spyridon Sfetas

1. took part in the Sixth Greek-Serbian Conference (Thessaloniki, 27-28 March 2003), with a paper titled: “Οι ελληνο-γιουγκοσλαβικές σχέσεις στο πλαίσιο του γαλλο-ιταλικού ανταγωνισμού στα Βαλκάνια (1924-1928)”;

2. took part in the conference organized by the Sofia History Institute to mark the centenary of the Ilinden uprising (Sofia, 27-28 September 2003), with a paper titled: “National Identity and Demarcation Lines in Macedonia: The Failure of a Greek-Bulgarian Understanding (1891–1899)”;

3. took part in the AIESE’s Ninth International Conference on South-east European Studies (Tirana, 30 August - 3 September 2004), with a paper titled: “Die griechisch-albanische Verständigung in den politischen Anschauungen von Neoklis Kazazis”;

4. took part in the conference organized by the Society for Macedonian Studies to mark the centenary of the Macedonian Struggle (Thessaloniki, 12-13 November 2004), with a paper titled: “Η πορεία προς το Ίλιντεν, ο αντίκτυπος της εξέγερσης του Ίλιντεν στην Ελλάδα και οι απαρχές της ένοπλης φάσης του Μακεδονικού Αγώνα”;

5. submitted monthly reports on current developments in FYROM, Bulgaria, and Romania.

Research associate Ms Eleftheria Manta

1. took charge of the three-year research programme *Διάσωση, αξιοποίηση και προβολή τεκμηρίων ιστορίας του νεότερου και σύγχρονου Ελληνισμού*, which IMXA has undertaken to carry out in the framework of the European “Society and Information” programme, 2003-2006;

2. taught Greek as a foreign language in the School of Balkan Languages.

External research associate Mr Ioannes G. Leontiadis

1. organized the 31st International Programme for Greek Language, History, and Culture, 27 July - 24 August;

2. edited *Balkan Studies* vol. 43, Nos. 1 and 2.

II. HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Institute for Balkan Studies is planning to set up 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 specializes in Balkan subjects. Its purpose is to offer 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 Greece's role in the region.

The material is selected according to strict criteria with regard to subject matter, and is written in Greek, one of the four main West European languages, any Balkan language, Russian, or Turkish. The collection is augmented by purchases and donations and through exchange agreements with scientific institutions both in Greece and abroad. Collaboration with these establishments extends to other activities as well.

The library's holdings currently amount to about 25,000 titles, of

which 820 are bibliographies, 1,100 dictionaries and encyclopaedias, 930 conference proceedings, 345 theses, and 1,600 pamphlets. This collection increases by some 500 new titles a year, and also includes approximately 300 rare books printed before 1875. Apart from all these, the library holds some 695 periodical titles (260 of them current), selected according to the criteria mentioned above.

The library has been fully computerized since 1994, using the Alexandrie software system. The thesaurus of key-words is bilingual (Greek-English), to give foreign scholars easy access to the bibliography. The library is open to all scholars, but 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 *Balkanike Bibliographia* ceased publication, and the librarian now indexes all the main articles on Balkan subjects in the periodicals that come into the library and the papers published in the conference proceedings. To date, 12,200 articles have been indexed and computerized.

The periodical titles are listed in the National Collective Periodical Catalogue of the National Documentation Centre (EKT) in both printed and electronic form. The library liaises with the EKT to supply photocopies of periodical articles, which it orders electronically through the EKT.

This year the library's holdings increased by 310 new entries, of which 105 were articles in periodicals and 205 monographs and encyclopaedias. Mr and Mrs Dale L. Nielson kindly donated to the library an eighty-four-volume encyclopaedia printed in St Petersburg in the late nineteenth century, which is one of the most precious holdings in our collection.

IV. LECTURES

On Monday 12 May, Ms. Olga Palaggia, Professor in the University of Athens, spoke on: "Η πρώτη γυναίκα του Κάσσανδρου".

On Wednesday 19 November, Mr. Anthony Emil Tachiaos, Professor emeritus in the Aristotle University and corresponding member of

the Academy of Athens, spoke on: “Προβλήματα και προοπτικές στην έρευνα για τη ζωή και δράση των Κυρίλλου και Μεθοδίου”.

On Monday 15 December, Mr. Speros Bryonis, Professor emeritus of Byzantine Studies, spoke on: “Τα Σεπτεμβριανά του 1955 και η καταστροφή της ελληνικής κοινότητας Κωνσταντινούπολης”.

V. CONFERENCES

1. “American presence in south-eastern Europe after the Cold War”, lecture hall, Museum of Musical Instruments, 7-8 February 2003.

A conference which analyzed US policy in the wider area of the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean in the last decade and linked the recent past to the current situation on the basis of strict scientific criteria.

2. Sixth Greek-Serbian Symposium: “Bilateral relations in the first half of the twentieth century”, Vasilios V. Laourdas Room, IMXA, 27–28 March 2003.

IMXA co-operates with its counterparts in the other countries of south-eastern Europe to organize regular scientific meetings. The proceedings of the Sixth Greek–Serbian Symposium, which was organized jointly with the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, focused on the study and evaluation of bilateral relations from the time of the Balkan Wars to the early postwar period (1950s).

VI. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

1. School of Balkan Languages

During the academic year 2003/2004, 555 students attended the school in 62 groups, 60 per cent of which were converted into intensive groups (two separate academic semesters).

Albanian: 30 students in 5 groups

Bulgarian: 79 students in 10 groups

Romanian: 46 students in 5 groups

Russian: 103 students in 12 groups

Serbian: 66 students in 8 groups

Turkish: 231 students in 22 groups

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

Between 27 July and 24 August, the Balkan Institute ran its 31st 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 Greece's interests, and was attended this year by 160 people from 34 countries in Europe, America, and Asia, most of them with scholarships from the Ministries of Culture and Education.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

The following collective work came out in 2003:

Kotzageorgi, Xanthippe (ed.), *Η Βουλγαρική κατοχή στην Ανατολική Μακεδονία και τη Θράκη, 1941-1944*, Thessaloniki 2002, pp. 347 (Paratiritis).

IMXA and the State Archives of the Russian Federation jointly published the collective work:

B. Kondis, I. Mourellos, K. Papoulidis, M. Ju. Prozumenščikov, N. S. Smirnova, and N. Tomilina, *Σοβιετική ένωση και Βαλκάνια στις δεκαετίες 1950 και 1960*, Thessaloniki 2003, pp. 445 (Paratiritis).

This year saw the publication of the foreign-language periodical *Balkan Studies* (ed. Prof. I. Mourellos), vol. 43, Nos. 1 and 2, Thessaloniki 2002, pp. 1-273.

The IMXA publications were exhibited, as they are every year, on the Institute's own stand at the 22nd Panhellenic Book Festival, which was organized by the Publishers' Association of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki in June.