

# ***Abstracts***

*K. TSOURIS*

## **A BOWL EMBEDDED IN THE WALL OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HAGIOI ANARGYROI IN VATOPEDI MONASTERY**

Jovan Uglješa is the ktetor of the chapel of the Hagioi Anargyroi (1370) in Vatopedi Monastery, Mount Athos. In the apse of this chapel a bowl of the Pula-type is embedded. White glaze, blue and lustre decoration. The bowl is dated around the mid-fourteenth century. Pula-type ceramics originated in Valencia in the second or third quarter of the fourteenth century with a distribution covering the whole of the Mediterranean. A fragment of a Pula-type bowl survives in the catholicon of Vlatadon Monastery, Thessaloniki. The chapel of Hagioi Anargyroi and the catholicon of Vlatadon Monastery are the only byzantine churches in Macedonia with embedded bowls. This custom spread excessively in Mount Athos only after sixteenth century.

*JAMES J. FARSOLAS*

## **AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AT THE COURT OF ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA: HENRY MIDDLETON OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND JOHN CAPODISTRIAS (1821-1827)**

This study examines the last two years (1820-1822) of John Capodistrias at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia as reported by Henry Middleton, the United States Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary (Ambassador) to Russia, in his diplomatic dispatches addressed to his government in Washington.

The first part of the study deals with Middleton's life and political career in the State of South Carolina, following by his appointment to the Russian diplomatic post by President James Monroe in 1820, serving in it until 1830. In St. Petersburg Middleton dealt in his diplomatic matters with Capodistrias and Count Karl Robert Nesselrode, the two secretaries who shared the affairs of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Middleton's first two years at the Court of St. Petersburg coincided with Capodistrias' last two years in the Russian diplomatic service. During this period Middleton collaborated and worked closely with Capodistrias on several important questions dealing with Anglo-American and Russian-

American relations, European diplomacy, the revolts in Western Europe, and the Greek Revolution. His diplomatic dispatches provide new information about Capodistrias' role in resolving crucial issues regarding the Anglo-American dispute stemming from the war of 1812 and the Treaty of Ghent, which ended that Anglo-American conflict, as well as the Russian-American controversy over the Northwestern Coast of North America, an area under the jurisdiction of the Russian company, and in contention by the United States. In addition, Middleton's dispatches provide a new and interesting information: Capodistrias, perhaps on his own initiative, made a proposal to the American government, through Middleton, its representative in St. Petersburg, for a Russian-American treaty of alliance in the summer of 1821 to counterbalance the growing threat of England and Austria against Russia in the Near Eastern crisis. Such Russian-American alliance, Capodistrias believed, would indirectly aid the Greek struggle of liberation from the Turks. But the American government refused to enter in a treaty with Russia and followed a Turkophile policy during and after the end of the Greek war of independence. In view of the vacillating attitude of Russia toward the Greek struggle of liberation, Capodistrias became disappointed with Emperor Alexander's Near Eastern policy and had no alternative but to resign from the Russian diplomatic service. Capodistrias, however, worked at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs almost to the last weeks before his departure for Western Europe on August 8/20 1822, as Middleton's dispatches reveal.

Finally, Middleton gives a few details about Capodistrias' last visit to St. Petersburg in the spring of 1827 when he asked Emperor Nicholas for his official resignation from the Russian service, as he was soon to assume the office of the presidency of Greece.

*SOKRATIS ANGELIDIS*

THE GREEKS OF KARS

The article deals with the Greeks living in the area of Kars, their schools, the number of pupils, and the teachers who taught in them.

*DOMNA VISVIZI-DONTAS*

THE PAINFUL PEACE OF 1923

The aim of this article is the analysis of the Venizelian and Allied policy in Asia Minor from 1919 to the treaty of 1923. Making an extensive use of

primary sources, the writer brings forward that Venizelos was authorized by Britain and France to land Greek forces at Smyrna in 1919; but he complied with without asking for guarantees in the event of having to fight a single-handed war with Turkey. The Greek landing coincided with the decision of Kemal to fight for "Turkey to the Turks". Thus, the Treaty of Sèvres, which Britain hurriedly induced France and Italy to sign in 1920, was a peace only on paper and could not be enforced save by a long war.

Having been unseated in that same year, Venizelos, from his exile, realized the dangerous involvement of Greece in Anatolia and he repeatedly insisted on the British support of Constantine and on the political world in Greece the necessity of withdrawing the troops from Smyrna. The refusal of the Greek government proved only calamitous. Venizelos was called upon by the Greek government to save the wreckage at Lausanne and sign the painful Treaty of 1923.

The writer reaches the conclusion that the Greek army without resources pursuing a lone war with Turkey collapsed. But the policy of the French and the Italian governments had been chiefly responsible for its disaster.

#### PASKAL MILO

##### ALBANIA AND THE BALKAN ENTENTE

The issue of Balkan security, understanding, and cooperation occupies a central position in discussions at conferences, symposiums, and seminars organized by governments and NGOs, political parties, businessmen, and people of arts and culture. Within this Balkan environment, historians have their own role.

The peoples of the Balkans have many common aspects in their history: joint efforts to win and protect their freedom and independence, to protect peace and to strengthen understanding and cooperation with each other. One of these efforts was the Balkan Entente, established in the early 1930's. Albania attempted at that time to be a part of the Balkan Entente, but it did not become a member.

The present article is the first attempt to interpret these events —the foundation of the Balkan Alliance and Albania's efforts to adhere to it—, putting it in its historical framework, since the history of diplomacy of Albania, during the period between the two World Wars was not treated sufficiently by the Albanian historians up to now.

*DIMITRIS LIVANIOS*A LOVELESS ENTANGLEMENT: BRITAIN AND BULGAR-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS,  
1924-1943

This article sets out to explore British policy towards Bulgar-Yugoslav relations over a period of peace and war in the Balkans, and to assess the basic assumptions and debates within the Foreign Office which shaped it. Forced by necessity, not choice, the British took an active interest in the Macedonian Question, although their only vital interest in the area was the preservation of the status quo. No matter how imperfect it was, it afforded the only hope for peace. Consequently, they tried to prevent a "hot" incident and to keep the issue out of the League of Nations. However, political expediency was assisted by "ethnography". For the Foreign Office, the Macedonians had no "national" consciousness and therefore they should remain under Serbian rule, a convenient but sincerely held view. From the mid-1930s the prospect of a Bulgar-Yugoslav federation was also discussed. After some debate, it was concluded that such a scheme was dangerous and undesirable. Instead, the British proposed an all-Balkan federation, a non-practical proposition which collapsed under Russian hostility and Balkan indifference. Although they never materialised, the British plans on Bulgar-Yugoslav relations enabled them to reach firm conclusions, which dictated their actions in the winter of 1944-1945.

*VOJISLAV D. DJURIĆ*

## GREEK AND SERBIAN ART HISTORIANS ADVANCING TOGETHER

A speech delivered on 16 March 1992 by Vojislav Djurić, Professor Emeritus of the University of Belgrade, on receiving the title of Honorary Doctor of the University of Athens. Professor Djurić examines the relations between Serbian and Greek historians of mediaeval art, chiefly since the Second World War, the influence upon them of Gabriel Millet and Victor Lazarev, and their views regarding the existence of national schools and the unity of art in the Orthodox world.