

III. Language Courses

In the non-credit courses in languages which are offered by the Institute for students, graduates and assistants of the University of Thessaloniki, in addition to the Bulgarian, Russian and Serbo-Croatian, the Turkish language has been now added.

IV. Guests and Visitors

The Institute had the pleasure to include among its guests and visitors in 1966, the members of the Administrative Board of the International Association for Southeastern European Studies, *Prof. Alecs Buda* and *Dr. Aleko Sheto* (Albania); *Prof. Vl. Georgiev*, *Prof. N. Todorov* and *Dr. M. Conçeva* (Bulgaria); *Sir Ronald Symé* (England); *Prof. Em. Condurachi*, *Prof. Gr. Ionescu*, *Dr. V. Căndea* and *Mrs. S. Râpeanu* (Rumania); *Prof. Halil Inalcık* (Turkey); *Prof. A. F. Miller* (Soviet Union); *Prof. F. Barisić*, *Prof. M. Garašanin* and *Prof. Vl. Djurić* (Yugoslavia); *Prof. Ap. Daskalakis*, *Prof. A. Xyngopoulos* and *Dr. M. Chadjidakis* (Greece). Other visitors were the Greek Delegates to the First International Southeastern European and Balkan Congress in Sofia, *Prof. Theo. Stavrou* with a group of students of the SPAN program of the University of Minnesota, *Prof. James F. Clarke* (University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania); *Prof. Stephen G. Xydis* (Hunter College, New York); *Prof. John E. Rexine* (Colgate University, Hamilton, New York); *Prof. G. Constandakopoulos* (Rutgers University, New Jersey); *Dr. Douglas Dakin*, (Birkbeck College, University of London); *Dr. Rex Witt* (London); *Prof. Ves. Beschevliev* (Sofia, Bulgaria).

BASIL LAOURDAS

Director of the Institute

ACADEMY OF ATHENS, RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF MODERN GREEK HISTORY

For the Greeks of today the proper study of modern Greek history is called for not only on scientific but also on national grounds. This knowledge sheds light on the struggles of the modern Greeks towards nationhood, illustrates their cultural activities and influence, and helps the nation to know itself.

The pursuit of neo-Hellenic historical studies has always been a matter of close concern to the Universities in Greece and to Greek learned soci-

eties and associations. The Academy of Athens has also taken an interest in the formation of an Institute for the study of Modern Greek history.

The first positive attempt by the Academy in this direction was made during the troubled period of the Second World War. On 21 April 1944 Constantinos Amantos, then President of the Academy, put forward proposals to this effect and submitted a plan for the establishment of the "Historikon Archeion tou Neoterou Hellenismou," a title which was recently changed to "Research Centre for the Study of Modern Greek History." The Academy finally decided to set up this Centre in June 1944; its decision was approved by the State in July 1945. The Centre began work, however, in 1957, when Professor George Kolias was appointed as its first Director.

According to article 2 of its Charter, the object of the Centre is "the study of modern Hellenism and its relations with neighbouring peoples from the 13th century to the present time." The beginning of the nineteenth century was however later adopted as the real starting date for the Centre's field of research.

During the first few years of its life the Centre, with its small staff and the limited funds allotted to it, was unable to plan work on a long-term basis and on a large scale.

The Director's first step was to set up a historical library, especially by acquiring Government publications which could be obtained free. A collection of newspapers and periodicals published by Greeks abroad was also started. The catalogue lists 113 Greek newspapers and periodicals published abroad. On the research side, the staff undertook a study of the history of Macedonia and Western Thrace from 1912 onwards.

In 1962 Mr. G. Kolias, who was elected Professor of History in the Athens University, was succeeded as Director of the Centre by Mr. Eleutherios Prevelakis. In the meantime additional members were appointed to the staff, and the number employed, including secondary school teachers seconded to the Centre, has now risen to 7.

The increase in the annual grant as from 1962 has given fresh impetus to the work of the Centre. Research work has been carefully planned and allocated, and the projects undertaken, which cover the whole field of Modern Greek history from the beginning of the 19th century to the present day, are now proceeding systematically and at a more rapid pace.

Despite the historical sources and works on Modern Greece published to date, there is no doubt that it is impossible to write a History of Modern Hellenism which will meet the demands of contemporary historical scholarship without a knowledge of the international bibliography on the subject, and without a study of the sources to be found in Greek and foreign archives.

However difficult it may appear at first sight to fulfil the latter requirement, it is nonetheless feasible. Today it is possible, at a fairly low cost, to photograph whole archives on microfilm, usually 35 mm., and in this way hundreds of thousands of pages may be stored in a filing case measuring only 1 cubic metre. Modern techniques make greater demands on the scholars, but at the same time they encourage the research worker to extend his activities into a much wider field. The Centre has already taken several far-ranging initiatives in the search for new source material, and will continue to do so in future.

For the time being, the work of the Centre is divided into the following main sectors:

1) *Microphotography of Greek and foreign archives relating to the History of Modern Hellenism from 1821 to date.* In the first place the Centre has chosen to investigate and microphotograph historical sources in the Government archives of the main European countries, first because these are not easily accessible to all Greek research workers owing to the distance and the expenditure involved, and secondly, because they are far better classified than those in Greece, and research is therefore easier and more rewarding. So far four missions have been sent abroad, one by the Director, Mr. E. Prevelakis, to study the archives of the Foreign Office, London, in 1963, and three by the writer, G. Laïos to the Haus-Hof-und Staatsarchiv, Vienna, in 1964, 1965 and 1966. The detailed reports of these missions were published in the Proceedings of the Academy of Athens in the years 1963-66. Their findings show that the material which has been microphotographed, and which now amounts to hundreds of thousands of pages, is continuous and consists mainly of the reports of the British and Austrian Ambassadors and Consuls in Greece to their governments. These include, for instance, reports by Dawkins, Lyons, Prokesch-Osten, and others, as well as the instructions given to them by the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain and Austria, such as Palmerston, Aberdeen, Gladstone, Metternich, etc. There is much valuable information in this material concerning the policy of the Great Powers towards Greece and, conversely, concerning Greek foreign policy, economic situation, economic relations, internal political developments, political leaders and parties, and political rivalries, about the liberation struggle of the unredeemed Greeks, about cultural activities and influence, and so on.

The Centre has now been supplied with the latest type of microfilm reading equipment. Trained staff examine these documents and prepare abstracts of the contents. The first collection of these abstracts is to be published shortly by the Academy, and the full series is expected ultimately to run into several volumes.

As regards Greek archives, a special search was made in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs relating to the Cretan Insurrection of 1866-69. From the material in these archives, microphotographs were made of the reports of the Greek Consuls in Chanea, Heraklion and Rethymnon. These historic documents, which will comprise two large volumes, are to be published shortly by the Academy of Athens, which is taking part in the official celebration of the centenary of the Insurrection.

In addition to archive material on microfilm the Centre has also acquired a number of valuable nineteenth century manuscripts. These are as follows:

a) One manuscript còdex of the distinguished scholar and politician Alexander Rizos Rangavis, containing for the most part his letters (drafts or copies) to King George I of Greece and to contemporary politicians such as Alexander Koumoundouros, Theodore Deliyannis, Charilaos Tricoupis, and others (1841-1887).

b) 10 letters from Rangavis, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Greek Ambassador in Vienna, Constantinos Skinas (1856-1857).

c) A bundle of letters from the architect Theophil Hansen of Vienna to his representative in Athens, the architect Ernst Ziller, about the construction and decoration of the Academy building (1878-1890), etc.

2) *The second sector of the Centre's work is the preparation of a bibliography on Modern Greek History from 1800 onwards.* According to the rules drawn up for its compilation, this bibliography will include "all publications, in Greek or any foreign language, which are a source or reference work whether a complete book or an article in a periodical, newspaper, etc., referring in whole or in part directly or indirectly to the political history of Modern Greece or to aspects of Modern Hellenic civilization which are of historical interest, during the 19th and 20th centuries."

The material included in the bibliography is systematically catalogued and classified, and is also indexed by name, subject and date, on special cards.

3) The third sector of the work of the Centre is the building up of its library, for historical studies, particularly the acquisition of historical sources which have been published to date (e.g. diplomatic documents, historical memoirs, diaries, etc.) as well as basic historical works, monographs and reference books, historical periodicals, and maps, pictures, etc. referring to the history of Modern Greece.

Research Centre for the Study
of Modern Greek History
of the Academy of Athens

GEORGE LAIOS