

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SLAVIC STUDIES (AAASS)

Fifth National Convention,
Dallas-Texas, March 1972

The Convention was held in Dallas, Texas, on March 15th-18th, 1972 with a large participation of nearly 300 members. The Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki was presented by Dr. Athanasios Angelopoulos, regular member of the AAASS.

The major program themes were five. (1) Anarchism, Authority and Law, (2) Contemporary Problems of Society and Environment, (3) The Conflict between National Identity and Socialist Policy, (4) The State of the Field and (5) Special and General Sessions.

The first major theme dealt with the following topics: (1) Police and the Juridical System as Sources of Stability and Instability in Russia and Eastern Europe (The Police and the Juridical System in Tsarist Russia, 1861-1905 - The Universities, the Students and the Government in Tsarist Russia - The Juridical System in Post-reform Russia), (2) Philologists as Sources of Stability and Instability in Multi-national Situations, (Eastern Europe - Russia and Eastern Europe), (3) Conservatism and Dissent in Literature and Philosophy (Russia-East Central and Southeastern Europe - Twentieth Century Literature).

The second theme examined the following questions: (1) Modernization and the quality of the environment in the URSS and Eastern Europe (the quality of the environment in the Socialist Society - Property rights under socialism - Planning under socialism - Problems of the environment), (2) Population trends and the problem of urbanization in the URSS and Eastern Europe (urbanization and socioeconomic change in Eastern Europe and the URSS - urbanization and industrialization in East-central and Southeastern Europe - Population processes in the URSS), (3) Modernization and problems arising from the quality of the environment in the URSS and Eastern Europe (Regional integration: resource/energy sharing in the Bloc).

The third theme considered: (1) National identities as obstacles to socialist goals of political and social assimilation (Nation building in European communist countries - Political socialization in European communist systems - Problems of domestic and regional integration in Eastern Europe - Conflict and converging of socialism and nationalism in Eastern Europe), (2) The role of national identities in the process of socialist economic integration (internal regional interests and socialist economic integration: the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Poland - Nation-state assertiveness and economic integration within the Eastern European area - Political implications of the process of socialist economic transformation), (3) The role of literature and mass-media in the conflict between national identities and socialist norms (The role of literature - The Role of the press and literature), (4) The prospects the eliminating distinct national identities in the socialist world (theoretical aspects of the problem - Some cases studies - Intensification or lessening of nationalist sentiment in socialist countries, (5) religion.

Lectures were also given in special and general sessions on: (1) Varieties of dissent in the URSS - An interdisciplinary approach, (2) issues and problems in American studies of nationalities in Eastern Europe and the URSS, (3) New approaches to the Soviet military, (4) Yugoslavia 1971, the changing cultural landscape (Geographical Student Seminar in Yugoslavia), (5) Research experience and academic exchange with non-Russian areas in the URSS, (6) Comparative U.S.-Soviet developments (case studies), (7) Slavic relations with Turkish-Ottoman history and society, (8) Print and the proletariat: publishing and archival

development as instruments of social change in the URSS, (9) Topics in the history and culture of Russia, (10) Political history of Southeastern Europe, (11) Problems of a multi-ethnic society: the case of Yugoslavia.

Of great importance were three sessions on the contemporary situation in Yugoslavia.

(1) *The Balkans* (chairman, Michael Petrović, professor of the University of Wisconsin). Two papers were presented, the first by L. Dellin, University of Vermont, entitled «Conflict between Nationalism and Internationalism in Socialist Policy: the Macedonian Case» and the second by A. Dragnić, University of Vanderbilt, entitled «Yugoslav Government Decision Making and Nationality Differences». The first paper dealt with its subject in a general way, while the second provoked a stormy discussion. Alex Dragrić's case was as follows:

a) the official Yugoslavian state is basically antiserbian. The best evidence of this is that Serbia has been divided into the Republic of Serbia and the two autonomous districts of Vojvodina and Kosifopolije, while many efforts have been made to denationalize the Serbians of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia.

b) The distinct nationalistic movement of Skopje is non-existent.

c) The present regime has failed to solve the nationality problem of this country which has become complicated and complex.

In the discussion which followed the two papers, the following among others participated: Ante Kadić, University of Indiana, J. Clark, University of Pittsburgh, Th. Ivanus, University of Notre Dame, Bogdan Radica, University of Ferirleigh Dickinson, G. Hoffman, University of Texas, Ath. Angelopoulos of the Institute for Balkan Studies at Thessaloniki, Alex Dragnić and others.

2) *Problems of Multi-ethnic Societies*. In this session the following papers were presented:

a) National identities as obstacles to socialist goals: the case of Yugoslavia, by Ivan Avakumović, University of British Columbia.

b) Violence and social change in Yugoslavia, by Bogdan Denić, University of Columbia in New York.

c) Neo-marxist ideology and the modernization of society: Yugoslav socialism and the obsolescence of Praxis, by W. N. Dunn, University of Pittsburgh.

d) Yugoslav views of social conflict and development, by G. Klein, University of Western Michigan and

e) Territorial consequences of the 1971 constitutional revision in Yugoslavia, by Joseph Velikonja, University of Wahington.

From the further discussion on these papers the following remarks could be made: a basic and sharp nationalistic difference between Serbians and Croats as far as the leadership of Yugoslavia is concerned. Croat scholars accused Serbian policies and measures of working against Croatian interests in the country. On the contrary, the Serbian scholars, who were more calm in their arguments, reminded of the prevailing position of the Serbian element in Yugoslavia as far as population and geography are concerned, they also mentioned the Ustasis crimes against Serbs during the Second World War. When it came to the multi-ethnic composition of Yugoslavia today, the participants' viewed the future of the country without any prognosis, for all of them found the situation highly complicated and complex.

3) *Yugoslavia 1971, The Changing Cultural Landscape* (Geographical Student Seminar in Yugoslavia). Chairman G. Hoffman, professor of the University of Texas at Austin. Seven students of G. Hoffman presented their observations:

a) George Dervis, Northern Illinois University, on «Internal Migration».

- b) Martha Dell Desch, University of California, Los Angeles, on «Tourism».
 - c) Patricia A. Gober, The Ohio State University, on «Process of Urbanization».
 - d) Ann Helgson, University of California at Berkeley, on «Demographic Changes».
 - e) William J. Novak, The University of Texas, Austin, on «Diversity of the Rural Landscape» and
 - f) Albert M. Tosches, State College at Salem, on «Nationality Problems».
- Remarks on the above observations were made by B. Radica, Ath. Angelopoulos, G. Prpić, I. Avakumović, S. Bosnić, G. Hoffman and others. The observations of A. Tosches and M. Desch were not found to be entirely accurate.

Institute for Balkan Studies

ATH. ANGELOPOULOS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH SLAVIC STUDIES (AASSS)

First Annual Meeting

New York, N.Y., April 1973

1. *AASSS*. The American Association for South Slavic Studies was founded in 1972 and currently has about 150 members, scholars from American Universities and other Institutes for Slavic and Balkan Studies who are interested specifically in South Slavic Studies.

The Association is a scholarly, non-political and non-profitmaking society dedicated to the advancement of South Slavic studies and the promotion of the teaching of the South Slavic languages, literatures and cultures on all educational levels. Its aims are basically cultural and its overall program sufficiently broad to transcend the narrowness of the exclusively national, regional, religious or political heritages of the various South Slavic groups.

It is governed by a Committee of which the first members are Kenneth E. Naylor, of the Ohio State University Columbus, as president, Rado L. Lenčec, of the Columbia University, N.Y.N.Y., as Vice-president, Thomas J. Butler, of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, as secretary-treasurer and G.B.Ković, of Portland State University, Portland, as editor of the Newsletter.

2. *First Annual Meeting of AASSS*. It was held in New York City on April 18th-21st, 1973, in conjunction with the Sixth National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS). The major program themes were four: (1) Slovenia Today, (2) Ottoman Relations in the Balkans after 1683, (3) Modern Yugoslavia and (4) Illyrianism and the South Slavs.

Contributions to the first theme were as follows:

- (a) «Slovene Identity in Contemporary Europe», by Joseph Velikonja, University of Washington.
- (b) «At the Roots of Slovene National Individualism», by Bogdan Novak, University of Toledo.
- (c) «Economic Determinants in the Development of Slovene National Identity», by Tousseint Hocevar, Louisiana State University in New Orleans.
- (d) «Topical and Universal in Slovene Literature», by Anton Slodnjak, University of Ljubljana.

On the second theme the following topics were discussed:

- (a) «Ottoman Relations with the Balkan Nations after 1683», by Kemal Karpat, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- (b) «Bulgaria», by Philip Shashko, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
- (c) «Greece», by Dimitri Kitsikis, University of Ottawa.
- (d) «Yugoslavia», by Lazar Brkić, Milwaukee Public Museum and
- (e) «Rumania», by Radu Florescu, Boston College.

The third theme was covered by the following contributions:

- (a) «Macedonia: A Case Study in Post-war Industrialization in Yugoslavia», by Robert Christie, Utica College of Syracuse University.
- (b) «Notes on the Relevance of Yugoslav Self-Management», by Bogdan Denić, Columbia University.

- (c) «Tito's Pre-revolutionary Party Career», by Sava Bosnić, University of New Brunswick.
- (d) «Yugoslavia Non-aligned: Between Whom?», by Robin Remington, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University.

The fourth theme was dealt with as follows:

- (a) «The Illyrian Solution to the Problem of Modern National Identity for the Croats», by E. Despalatović, Connecticut College.
- (b) «Serbian Nationalism and the Illyrian Movement», by Jasna Kragalott, The Ohio State University and Robert Kragalott, Ohio Wesleyan University.
- (c) «Why did Illyrianism Fail?», by Philip Adler, East Carolina University.

Of great importance were the sessions on «Ottoman relations in the Balkans» and «Modern Yugoslavia», for they provoked useful questions and highly creative discussions among the scholars, taking part and in particular must be mentioned the papers of J. Velikonja, B. Novak, K. Karpat, D. Kitsikis, L. Brkić, R. Christie, S. Bosnić. R. Christie's observations about the industrialization of the southern part of Yugoslavia (the so-called Socialistic Republic of «Macedonia») were generally considered to be deficient and subjective, while the use of the historical and geographical term *Macedonia* was confused.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SLAVIC STUDIES (AAASS)

Sixth National Convention
New York, N.Y., April 1973

The Sixth National Convention was held in New York City on April 18th-21st, 1973 with a participation of nearly 300 members. In 24 sessions the following themes were examined:

(1) *St. Petersburg and Russian Literature* (The Physiology of Petersburg—Praised or Damned: Petersburg in Russian Poetry—Intervention, intercession and insinuation from Turge-
nev to Pletnev), (2) *The Impact of the Cold War on Russian and Soviet Studies in the West*,
(3) *Culture and Politics in Nep Society* (the soft line on culture and its enemies—The party and
the intelligentsia—Literature and Politics in Nep Society), (4) *Aspects of Early Medieval Ideology*
(the concept of the «Russian Land» from the 19th to the 14th centuries—Turkish ideologi-
cal concepts of land and state), (5) *The Rise and Fall of Liberalism in Czechoslovakia*, (6)
The Visionary Utopianism of the Avant-Garde (the utopian vision of the avant-garde—Malevich
and Kruchenykh), (7) *Church and State in Russia and Poland* (the church in 18th century
Russia—The churches and the state in 18th century Poland), (8) *Eastern European Elites*
(National-policy making practices in the URSS—The Yugoslav political leadership—The
political institutionalization of the Yugoslavian parliamentary system), (9) *Cosmopolitanism*
and Narodnichestvo in the Russian Avant-garde (Henri Bergson and the paradigm of forma-
lism—Ivanov Razumnik—Zoscchenko's narrator), (10) *Research and Development Commi-
tee*, (11) *Russian Peasant and Political Attitudes and their Determinants 1905-1917* (Stolypin's
reforms and the peasants—The social psychology of the Russian peasants—Cyclical mobi-
lity in the peasantry), (12) *Problems of Translation* (translations of Mandelstam—Some gram-
matical problems of translation—from the Slavic languages—Translation and reality), (13)
Chmel'nitsky as seen in Polish, Ukrainian, Jewish and Turkish Sources (Chmel'nitsky in Tur-
kish sources—Chmel'nitsky in Ukrainian and Russian sources—Chmel'nitsky in the light of
Nathan Hanover's «Abyss of Despair»), (14) *Centralization and Local Autonomy—Compe-
rative Approach* (The Romanian principalities—A look at Poland—The Habsburg lands), (15)
New Voices in Russian Literature (The role of the emigré journal as seen by the new exiles—
The new Avant-garde—The individual and the state in recent uncensored literature), (16) *The*
Family in Post-Reform Russia (The peasant family as social indicator—Mothers and daugh-
ters: families in the Revolutionary Intelligentsia—Moscow workers and the families 1880-
1900), (17) *Ideologies and their Appeal in the Civil War* (The South Russian White Govern-
ment and the peasants—The Nationality program of the White Army), (18) *New Approaches*
to Russian Literature (A Semiotic approach to Russian literature—The Queen of spades—a
psychoanalytic approach—The fit of Gogol's overcoat: an ontological view), (19) *The Ea-
stern Slavic World and the Steppe* (The Tartar-Cossack Alliance in the 17th Century—The
Crimean Khanate and Muscovy 15th and 16th centuries—Kazan, Astrakhan and Muscovy—
Pre-mongol nomads and the Eastern Slavs), (20) *The Reaction of the Nobles: Political Atti-
tudes of the Gentry between 1905 and the Outbreak of World War I* (The emergence of the Union
of 17 October: leaders and followers—Russian nationalism and gentry consciousness—Zem-
stvo and revolution: the onset of gentry reaction), (21) *Eastern Europe and Points West* (Czech
in Texas—Syncretism of genres in Serbo-croatian epic poetry), (22) *Destruction, Revolution*
or Reform (Hungary on the Eve of 1848—Reform on the edge of destruction), (23) *Russian*
that in the 1920's (The diagrammed vision—Surrealism in Russian painting—The decorative

art of Natalia Goncharova), (24) *Not by Bread Alone: A Little Meat too* (The future of Soviet agriculture—Soviet agriculture and the world market—The present state of Soviet agriculture—Zerno i Zveno).

Of special interest were the sessions on: (1) Aspects of Early Medieval Ideology, (2) Church and State in Russia and Poland, (3) Eastern European Elites, (4) The Eastern Slavic World and the Steppe, (5) Eastern Europe and Points West and (6) Destruction Revolution or Reform concerning the Relations between Byzantines and Slavs, Ottomans and Slavs and the Cultural, political and ecclesiastical situation in Russia, Poland and Yugoslavia both in the past and the present time.

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