

ABSTRACTS

MANOLIS G. VARVOUNIS

THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENT IN THE PROVERBS OF THE BALKAN PEOPLES

This study examines Balkan proverbs which carry echoes of the various peoples' traditional religious practices. These largely shared proverbs are categorised by content, and the writer examines their shared *topoi*, the modes of expression used, and any underlying folktale elements in order to draw conclusions about the Balkan peoples' religious practices as these took share within their traditional cultural systems.

ILIANA ZARRA

THE HEALING OF THE EMPERESS ZOE:

The subject of this study is a rare religious scene in a portable icon from the Church of St Athanasios in Thessaloniki. The representation shows the Empress Zoë, wife of Leo VI the Wise, being rid of an unclean spirit by the miraculous agency of the Holy Girdle. The miracle is mentioned in a text of the early 10th century concerning the provenance of two relics of the Virgin, her maphorion and her girdle.

The icon dates to 1982 and is unsigned. For stylistic reasons we ascribe it to the religious painter Mitakos Hadzistamatis, who came from Kolakia and was active in central Macedonia from the mid-19th century to 1899. He settled in Thessaloniki in 1885.

There are only two other examples of the same composition, both portable icons from Crete, one painted by Emmanouil Dzanis, the other by the circle of Theodoros Poulakis, and both dating to the second half of the 17th century. Consequently, questions regarding the source of inspiration and the development and significance of the subject led our research to the literature of that period and the traditions connected with the death of the Virgin. However, it may not be far from the truth to assert that the specific iconographical format of the Thessaloniki icon is due to the creative initiative of the artist who painted it, Mitakos Hadzistamatis.

An Iconographical and Historical Approach to a Rare Religious Theme in a Nineteenth-century Portable Icon from Thessaloniki

GEORGIOS NIKOLAOU AND MANOLIS PEONAKIS

DUMAS AND DE BONNEVAL: 'RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ISLAND OF CRETE':
AN UNPUBLISHED SECRET MISSION.

This study offers the first account of an unpublished French report of 1783 concerning Crete, two copies of which have been located in Paris : one in the French National Record Office and the other in the Historical Archives of the Ministry of War. It is a very important 251-page report, which was written during a secret mission to the eastern Mediterranean by two French army officers named Dumas and de Bonneval. It appears from the published and unpublished documents we have studied that Crete was of special importance to France at that time, mainly for military reasons, but also in terms of trade. The point of this secret mission, then, was to collect detailed information about the situation on Crete and also about other

areas of the Aegean and the Black Sea. In 1783, the western powers, and France especially, were certain that Russia would declare war on the Ottoman Empire in order to secure an outlet into the eastern Mediterranean. To give the reader a better understanding of the reasons which prompted the French government to plan and carry out the mission, the first part of the study gives a brief outline of the Eastern Question at the beginning of the 1780s. The two French officers' itinerary, in accordance with the orders they had received, is than briefly described, including Dumas' trip into the interior of Crete. Lastly, the report itself is reproduced and evaluated. It provides valuable and precise information (often unknown from other contemporary sources) about the island's fortifications and harbours, its army, villages, monasteries, and khans, its population and administration, and its agricultural output and trade.

SPYRIDON SFETAS

THE RUSSIANS IN THE IONIAN ISLANDS (1779-1807): ASPECTS OF RUSSIA'S
BALKAN POLICY FROM USAKOV'S ARRIVAL IN THE IONIAN ISLANDS UNTILL
THE TREATY OF TILSIT (1807)

The main purpose of the arrival and establishment of the Russian land and naval forces in the Ionian islands was to prevent Napoleon from landing in the Balkans and to stop the ideology of the French Revolution from influencing the Balkan peoples, who had to maintain their faith in Russia's future role as liberator. Although Russia's Balkan policy in 1779-1807 was advantageous to the subjugated Balkan peoples, the Anglo-Russian rivalry for influence in south-eastern Europe and the eastern Mediterranean eventually proved a decisive factor in the continuation of Ottoman sovereignty in the Balkans, and this disheartened the Balkan peoples. The political lesson they learnt was that their liberation depended on themselves alone.

STAMATIOS MESIMERIS

THE CONDITION AND ACTIVITY OF THE FRENCH NAVY
BEFORE THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1821

This article concerns the period 1815-20, when after Napoleon's fall, the French navy and merchant marine reappeared in the eastern Mediterranean.

The first part is based on the extant official literature concerning the French armed forces; the second on personal research in the archives of the French navy of that time, from which it is possible to compose a general picture of the navy (arms and equipment, crews, etc.), the problems facing it, and its activity. The latter, apart from a general account, is interesting mainly for the way the French treated the islanders.

IOANNIS A. PAPADRIANOS

MONTENEGRIN VOLUNTEERS IN THE GREEKS' STRUGGLE
FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION IN 1821

According to the surviving historical sources, quite a number of Montenegrins played a conspicuous part in the Greek War of Independence in 1821. This is the subject of this article.

The writer begins by seeking to explain why Montenegrin and other Balkan volunteers took part in the Greeks' struggle for national liberation in 1821. He offers the following explanation. Some of the volunteers fought alongside the Greek rebels because they believed that the liberation of Greece would lead to the liberation of their own countries; while others took part in the Greek struggle because they thought the decisive moment had arrived for the confrontation between the Balkans and the age-old foe 'for faith and country'. Lastly, a few volunteers came down to rebelling Greece in response to their own rebellious urges.

The writer then gives an account of the lives and the achievements of the Montenegrin volunteers, especially the most important ones, such as Vaso of Montenegro (1797-1847), his brother Rado, Djovan of Montenegro, de Wintz, and Grigor Djurovic.

ZOE SEMBI

The slaying of the French consul, Jean Moulin, and the German consul, Henry Abbott, in May 1876 in Thessaloniki is one of the most tragic events in modern Greek history. Owing to a series of tragic coincidences and a breakdown in the machinery of the Ottoman state, the Turks unjustly murdered two innocent young men. The purpose of this study is to investigate the reasons which led to this tragic killing, to elucidate some of its more obscure points, and to look at the events in their true perspective.

IOANNIS T. BAKAS

SERBIAN ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN MACEDONIA AT THE END
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND THE GREEK RESPONSE TO THEM.

The Bulgarian propaganda in Macedonia at the end of the 19th century alarmed the Serbs, who, with their claims to the north blocked, belatedly hastened to prove that the Slavonic-speaking Macedonians were racially related to them. They thus established schools and consulates in Macedonia, extending their territorial claims into south and east Macedonia, even as far as Serres (1890) and the village of Staro in the province of Melnik, with the aim of making it the last centre of Serbian influence over the surrounding Slavonic-speaking population groups. The concerted efforts of the Metropolitan of Serres, Grigorios, and the Greek consul, Stomaras, who acted swiftly and forcefully, thwarted all attempts.

As a result of the Greek-Serbian rapprochement of 1899, the Serbian activities in the region subsided somewhat. However, the reaction provoked by the terms of the rapprochement led the Serbian government to harden its stance regarding the Serbian consulate in Serres, which it upgraded by putting a capable diplomat, Avramovic, in charge of it; and they increased the number of teachers in the town's Serbian school. The organised resistance to his plans by the Metropolitan of Serres and the Greek consulate led Avramovic to propose the closure of the Serbian consulate and the suspension of any activity designed to consolidate Serbian interests in the Serres area.

SOPHIA ILIADOU-TACHOU

Of all the propaganda at work in the *vilayet* of Monastir, the most dangerous was that put about by the Romanians, which sought to change the inhabitants' consciousness using their own language. This propaganda, the success of which was decided both at the level of Greek-Romanian diplomatic relations and in the local people's consciousness, tried to achieve its aims in three stages.

In the first stage (1860-78) the Romanising element was subjected to a process of acculturation and instruction. In the second stage (1878-92) Romania redoubled its efforts to Romanise Macedonia. The third stage (1892-1905) was when the Romanian state focused on the religious emancipation of the Romanisers and tried to obtain 'community rights' for the Romanising Vlach-speakers, whom they defined as 'Rumuni'.

The sultan's decree of 1905 and Venizelos's compromise policy seemed temporarily to justify the Romanian policy implemented mainly in the third stage.

PASKHALIS VALSAMIDIS

THE FIRE OF ADRIANOPLE ON 20 AUGUST 1905 AND THE CONCERN
OF THE DIOCESAN AUTHORITIES FOR THE GREEKS OF THE CITY AS REVEALED
BY UNPUBLISHED ARCHIVAL MATERIAL.

This study discusses the fire which broke out on 20 August 1905 in Adrianople. No lives were reported lost, but the fire caused untold damage, destroying churches, mosques, synagogues, schools, homes, and shops. Many of the victims were forced to move to Constantinople and other cities. The diocesan authorities appointed a committee to help the victims of the fire. The committee in turn set up fund-raising committees in Adrianople itself, and in Athens, Constantinople, and elsewhere. The committee for the fire victims rebuilt burnt homes, helped destitute families to acquire their own, and repaired churches and the community buildings that had been badly damaged. The fire victims also received support from the Ottoman government, the Greek government, and the Oecumenical Patriarchate. By dint of great efforts, the diocesan authorities in Adrianople managed to carry their difficult task through.

ADRIANOS I. PAPADRIANOS

NEW DATA ON SOME GREEK EMIGRANTS IN SERBIA (19TH-20TH CC.)

This brief article, relying mainly on unexploited data, investigates some Greek emigrants in Serbia in the 18th and 19th centuries, about whom very little was known hitherto. It consists mainly in a translation of two important articles, which furnish valuable information about the great Naoussan benefactor Dimitrios Anastassiou-Sabov (Anastasijevic-Sabov), who founded the First High School in Serbia in 1791.)

ARETI TOUNDA-FERGADI

HOW THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION INFLUENCED THE POLICY
OF THE BALKAN COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE BALKAN CONFERENCES IN 1930-1934

At the Balkan Conferences of 1930-3, the minority problem, especially the problem of the Slavonic-speaking minority in Macedonia, was a subject of dispute

between the national groups (representing the countries) attending the conferences, and contributed to their failure. However, behind the Balkan countries' antagonism over the mirority problem lay their various claims to Macedonian territory.

We may thus conclude that, although the Macedonian question was not mentioned, as a term, at any of the four conferences, nor outside the conferences, it was the reason for the eventual failure of the institution that had been inspired by the Greek socialist leader Alexandros Papanastasiou with the ultimate aim of creating a Balkan Union or Federation.

BASIL GOUNARIS

Contrary to popular belief, historians have been neither unaware of, nor indifferent to, the Greek struggle for Macedonia. From the very start of the operations, the events were attentively recorded and publicised, almost to excess. This study attempts to classify the prolific literary output of eighty years (1904-84), which already constitutes several hundred titles, and to define the distinctive characteristics of each 'generation'. The writer concludes that the literature evolved in step with the Macedonian Question and with related political events throughout the 20th century. Although for the state and many others the main aim was to add support to the Greek arguments, ultimately most of the literature proved to be for local consumption only, as it failed to move beyond the stereotypes cultivated to serve political and diplomatic agendas.

SPYRIDON SFETAS

The Establishment and the Activity of the *Ohrana* (1943-4) in Western and Central Macedonia in the Framework of the Policy of the VMRO and the Italian and German Occupation Authorities.

The term *Ohrana* (defence) was a general, collective term used for the various armed corps of Bulgarising Slavonic-speakers mainly in the Kastoria and Edessa area during the Second World War. They were set up by the Italians and the Germans to hunt down Greek guerrillas (mainly representing ELAS), but the specific initiatives were undertaken by groups within the Bulgaro-Macedonian organisation VMRO. Thus the establishment and the activity of the *Ohrana* was directly connected with the VMRO's policy of an independent Macedonia. Since Italy and Germany did not support the *Ohrana*'s political aims, it developed into a terrorist organisation which committed crimes against the Greek population.

FANIS MALKIDIS

This article discusses the latest developments regarding the Greeks of Albania. It looks at events in Albania since 1991, when the previous regime collapsed, the establishment and evolution of Omonia, the Greek minority's political organisation, and Greek-Albanian relations as they have affected the situation of the Greeks living in Albania.

They writer focuses on issues that now concern the Greeks who remained in their historical homes after the great exodus to Greece in 1990 and 1991; on security

and the climate of terrorism, which has intensified since the rising in early 1997; on the Orthodox concern to the Greek minority. He also analyses the developments in Omonia with regard to political and human rights.

KYRIAKOS D. KENTROTIS

GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS 'MADE IN THE USA': THE ROLE
OF THE AMERICAN THINK TANKS.

About a thousand think tanks are actively involved in United States policy, more than a hundred of them based in Washington D.C. In this microcosm of Washington think tanks political and military strategies are worked out, scenarios reproduced, stereotypes repeated; breaks are made with traditional approaches and 'exercises on paper' are conducted, with or without consideration of what is feasible and achievable.

The reports and studies produced by various American think tanks with regard to Greek-Turkish relations focus primarily on the question of the Aegean and of Cyprus, though reference is also made, when such issues are in the news, to Thrace, terrorism, and the general situation in the Balkans and the east Mediterranean. There has been considerable activity in the sphere of Greek-Turkish relations since the summer of 1999. The American factor has been playing an important role in the rapprochement cultivated between the two nations both at the government level and through analysts in prominent American think tanks.

KATERINA MYSTAKIDOU

TURKEY'S COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

In contrast to Greece, Turkey's general image in the west has always been somewhat equivocal. This has had direct political repercussions and has forced Ankara to take action. There is a general conviction nowadays that the development of a friendly profile for secular Turkey would help it to realise its political aspirations and above all to improve its relations with the European Union. Lately, Turkey has decided to launch a concerted effort across the board, from cultural events to public relations firms, to bring about contacts with government representatives and businessmen.

Hitherto, Ankara has been assiduously cultivating its lobby in Washington, taking care to use people who have connections with the Israeli lobby. It has only occasionally used certain public relations firms in connection with the Kurdish and the Armenian Question in the last fifteen years.

Perhaps the most interesting factor is that it was from the Ottoman Empire that Turkey inherited the problem of its European identity and its dream of being accepted by the West. When the Empire's wealthier regions were in its European part, the Allies refused to recognise the Ottomans as a European power. The same is the case with Turkey. The nation-state also inherited the other two points of friction (the Kurdish and the Armenian Question) from the multi-ethnic Empire. Following the rejection of its application to join the European Union, Turkey now has an organised communications policy designed to reverse irrevocable decisions and facts.