



ARCS NEWSLETTER No. 1, NOVEMBER 2006

ARCS IN BRIEF

The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) was established in 2004 in order to facilitate academic research in Bulgaria for North American scholars and collaboration between scholars from North America and Southeast Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro). Cornell University is the host institution of ARCS in the United States. ARCS is registered in the United States as a not-for-profit corporation, exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is registered in Bulgaria as a non-profit foundation, and maintains a permanent presence in the country's capital, currently at 42A Maria Luiza Blvd, 1202, Sofia.

ARCS represents a consortium of 37 educational institutions registered in North America. The Center is a Developing Member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and a Member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria.

ARCS is dedicated to research in the humanities and social sciences (in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, art history, epigraphy, history, economics, music, philology, sociology, among others), from prehistory through the

modern age. A collateral aim of ARCS is regional: to foster research and collaboration between North American scholars and those in countries near Bulgaria, namely Albania, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, all of which share strong cultural ties and a remarkable ancient heritage, but none of which possesses an American Overseas Research Center (AORC).

ARCS is maintaining active contacts and collaboration with numerous members of the following institutions in Bulgaria: Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (Departments of Classics, History, and Archaeology); New Bulgarian University; American University in Bulgaria; Varna Free University; Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Institutes of Archaeology, Balkan Studies, Economics, Thracology, Center of Architectural Studies); many regional museums in Bulgaria; Health Psychology Research Center; Agency for Bulgarians Abroad at the Council of Ministers; Fulbright Commission in Bulgaria; Center for Advanced Study-Sofia; Society for Alternative Culture and Education "VIR." We are very grateful to all our contacts at these institutions for their enthusiastic support and collegiality.

ACTIVITIES

In general, ARCS sponsors academic fellowship programs; educational trips; conferences; lectures by local and visiting scholars; academic publications; research projects; and other cultural events.

• June-July 2006

For the first time this past summer, ARCS held a three-week summer session on Bulgarian history and culture, in collaboration with the Varna Free University and the Bulgarian National Heritage Association (under the patronage of the President of Bulgaria). The session consisted of a day of introductory lectures in Sofia (15 July), a week of lectures at the Varna Free University with visits to sites in and near

Varna (19-23 June 2006), and 14 days of historical and cultural excursions in Bulgaria (16-18 June and 24 June-4 July 2006). Lectures and site reports were given by leading experts from Bulgarian universities (Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Varna Free University, American University in Bulgaria), the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Archaeological Institute and Museum, Institute of Thracology, Institute of Balkan Studies) and museums throughout the country, as well as by guest lecturers from Cornell University. During their stay in Sofia, the members of our session visited the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission, at the kind invitation of the Director, Professor Julia Stefanova, who gave us a lecture and a tour of the Commission.

On the last day of the session, which symbolically coincided with Independence Day, the participants had a cordial meeting at the Presidential Palace with Bulgaria's First Lady, Mrs. Zorka Parvanova, and Professor Rumyana Mihneva, co-organizer of the summer session on behalf of the Varna Free University and the Bulgarian National Heritage Association. After the end of the session some participants attended the Independence Day celebration organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria, at which US Ambassador Mr. John Beyrle welcomed the guests with the following words: "July 4th is not only an American holiday but a holiday for every nation that treasures the ideals of freedom, democracy and responsibility. And Bulgaria, which shares the same ideals, celebrates with us." We had 10 full-time (both student and teacher) participants, from US, Canadian, and European universities, with diverse ethnic and educational backgrounds. They were a very enthusiastic, supportive and motivated group, and greatly contributed to the successful outcome of the session. They fell in love with Bulgaria's fascinating nature, history, folklore, and culture—and last but not least—vibrant restaurants and music clubs. Here is what some of them

shared about their experience:

"The Varna summer session allowed me to visit the sites that I read about in historical sources, and it provided me with a unique context from which to continue my research. There are very few programs that allow you to visit every region of Bulgaria in less than a month! I was very impressed with the warmth and hospitality of all those I met, and I hope to visit Bulgaria and the American Research Center in Sofia in the future."

Jason Reuscher, University of Pittsburgh

"I feel that the experience was life-changing, both personally and academically, and I have great hopes of returning to Bulgaria one day and learning more."

Allyson Blomeley, University of North Carolina at Asheville

"The tour was great, and my only suggestion for future ones is that you supply cooler weather. I look forward to other adventures with you."

Professor Mark Carper, University of Alaska



Visiting Rila Monastery



Dancing folk dances at the ethnographical park Brashlian



Group dinner on July 4th

- August-September 2006

ARCS representatives Professor Kevin Clinton and Dr. Nora Dimitrova participated in the international project "Contextualizing Classics," organized by the Classics Department at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the Open Society Institute, which took place between 28 August and 10 September 2006. The project's mission is "to explain the character of Greek and Roman legacy and the way in which it was passed on to posterity."

- October 20, 2006

In collaboration with the Sofia University "St.

Kliment Ohridski", ARCS sponsored the first lecture in honor of Eugene Schuyler. These lectures will take place every year, as a celebratory event intended for a broad audience of scholars, students, diplomats, politicians, and others. This year's lecture, entitled "The East West Conflict: Some Greek Literary Perspectives", was given by the Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Professor Stephen Tracy, and was held in the Aula of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." In his introduction to the lecture, the Director of ARCS, Kevin Clinton, officially announced the opening of ARCS, celebrated after the lecture by a reception in the Club-Restaurant of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The First Eugene Schuyler Lecture: the Director's Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce the first Eugene Schuyler lecture on behalf of the new American Research Center in Sofia. I am especially grateful to Professor Petya Yaneva,

Dean of the Philological Faculty, for co-sponsoring this event on behalf of the Sofia University. This lecture celebrates the academic inauguration of ARCS. First, a few words about Eugene Schuyler.



Professor Tracy talks about the East-West conflict from Greek literary perspectives

Eugene Schuyler was born in Ithaca, NY in 1840. He is the only person born in Ithaca, NY, where I live, who has a street named after him here in Sofia. How did a person born in Ithaca, NY have a street named after himself in the capital of Bulgaria? Schuyler was a man of

extraordinary erudition, a brilliant diplomat, scholar, writer, and (most of all) humanist. In the year 1861 Yale University granted three Ph.D. degrees that were the first (earned) Ph.D. degrees awarded in the United States; Eugene Schuyler was one of them, at the age of 21, in

philosophy and psychology. But that is not why a street here in Sofia is named after him. He went on to earn a degree in law from Columbia University, but law did not appeal to him—literature was more to his liking, especially Russian literature. In the space of two or three years he learned Russian, becoming one of the best experts on Russia in the United States. His expertise was noticed by the State Department, and he served as US consul in Russia, Turkey, Romania, England, Italy, and Egypt among other countries. He was one of America's best-qualified diplomats of his time. A friend of Tolstoy, translator of Turgenev, and biographer of Peter the Great, Schuyler spent ten years in Russia; his first book describes a nine-month trip through Central Asia which Russia was then subjugating. But none of these accomplishments caused a street here in Sofia to be named after him. But while Schuyler was consul in Istanbul in 1876 the April Uprising broke out in Bulgaria. Two Americans, Schuyler and the journalist Januarius MacGahan, were the first to report to the *World* in 1876 of the atrocities committed against Bulgarian civilians. Schuyler's reports from Bulgaria ignited the European press and helped to make Bulgaria the world's "fashionable cause," which led to Bulgaria's liberation. That was the reason a street is named Schuyler in Sofia. And I am happy to see that there is a parallel street, one block away, named MacGahan.

So Schuyler holds a special place in the early contacts between the United States and Bulgaria. As Patricia Herlihy wrote, "On April 4, 1879, the National Assembly of the newly created state of Bulgaria sent three cables of gratitude: one to Tsar Alexander II, one to William Gladstone, and one to Eugene Schuyler."

Schuyler was American minister to Greece, Romania, and Serbia, but was refused confirmation as Assistant Secretary of State because of his frank criticism of American policies. He died in 1890 in Venice after some months as diplomatic agent in Egypt, where he contracted malaria. Wherever he went and whatever he did, Eugene Schuyler could not bear to see human suffering and did all he could to alleviate it.

- October 26, 2006

The Director of ARCS, Professor Kevin Clinton, met with the President, Professor Bogdan Bogdanov, the Rector, Professor Ser-

On a more personal note, it is a pleasure to point out that as the US minister for Greece, Romania, and Serbia, stationed in Athens in the 1880's, Schuyler was also very helpful to the recently established American School of Classical Studies at Athens, whose Director I have the honor to introduce tonight. Professor Stephen Tracy has been Director of the American School for the past five years. The American School is the American Overseas Research Center in Greece, which has just celebrated its 125th anniversary, and it seems especially appropriate that its Director is here at the birth of the American Research Center in Sofia, for the American School, through its accomplishments in Greece, inspired the idea for an American Research Center here, dedicated broadly to research in the humanities and social sciences. It would require an entire lecture to describe Professor Tracy's many accomplishments. So I must be brief. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is most famous as an expert on the history and chronology of Hellenistic Athens. In pioneering research he was able to provide accurate dates for a vast number of Athenian public documents on stone. He did this by accomplishing what had never before been done in a systematic way: he identified the individual writing styles of those who inscribed the documents. He published the results in an important series of books, e.g. *Attic Letter-Cutters of 229-86 B.C.* (in 1990), *Athenian Democracy in Transition: Attic Letter Cutters of 348 to 298 B.C.* (in 1995), *Athens and Macedon: Attic Letter-Cutters of 300 to 229 B.C.* (in 2003). He has enjoyed teaching Greek and Latin literature at the Ohio State University, and among the fruits of this love is his book *Story of the Odyssey*, published in 1990. For many years now a project administered by him at the Ohio State University and by me at Cornell University has collaborated in producing a computerized version of the editions of nearly all Greek inscriptions on stone. He is also an editor of one of the volumes of a new edition of *Inscriptiones Graecae* for the Berlin Academy. Tonight he will give us his thoughts on "The East West Conflict: Some Greek Literary Perspectives."

gey Ignatov, and faculty members of the New Bulgarian University and gave a guest lecture entitled "The Samothracian Mysteries of the Great Gods."

- November 4-6, 2006

ARCS representatives Professor Kevin Clinton, Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, and Dr. Nora Dimitrova visited historical and cultural landmarks in Southwest Bulgaria, including the archaeological museum of Sandanski (remarkable with its votive reliefs and mosaics) and the surrounding

basilicas; the Rozhen monastery, renowned for its frescoes and iconostasis; and the town of Melnik, with its picturesque houses of the Bulgarian Revival period. This trip supplemented our summer session itinerary, which could not include the farthest regions of the Bulgarian Northwest and Southwest.

- 2007-2008

Please visit our website for information about the **2007-2008 academic programs and fellowships**.

FACILITIES

Dr. Bogomil Gerganov, member of the Board of Trustees, has purchased a centrally located apartment in Sofia, for use as the main office of ARCS. Our Sofia office is now fully furnished (including fast ethernet and wireless connection) and is currently open. Its library is available to all interested scholars, and will gradually become a significant resource for both local and visiting scholars. For the first few years, our library facilities will be mainly computer-based, providing access to valuable internet re-

search tools and databases. In addition to the internet facilities, basic books and reference works, already purchased, are currently being shipped. Naturally, our collection will take years to assemble. We have been promised donations of books from a number of institutions and individuals. Several hundred donated volumes have already arrived, and many more are on the way. We welcome donations of books that will enhance the library.

SPONSORS

We wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude the following sponsors of ARCS, whose generous donations have been of immense help:

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- Luther I. Replogle Foundation
- The Tianaderrah Foundation

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ARCS has two types of membership: institutional members, consisting of universities, museums, and other educational institutions registered in North America; and individual members, currently or formerly affiliated with a North American educational institution, or

other qualified scholars. The membership fee for both categories is \$200.

The following is a list of the current members, whose representatives form the Managing Committee of ARCS.

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If you wish to join ARCS, please contact the Director, Professor Kevin Clinton.

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