



AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN SOFIA NEWSLETTER No. 2, NOVEMBER 2007

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

We are negotiating the purchase of a substantial building to serve as the permanent quarters of ARCS. The purchase has been made possible by a major grant of the Packard Humanities Institute, to which we are immensely grateful. Once the purchase is complete, we will issue a special announcement with photos and details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS, www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs), established in 2004, is dedicated to research in the humanities and social sciences and represents a consortium of 60 educational institutions registered in North America. ARCS is a Developing Member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and an Educational Member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria.

ARCS is pleased to announce that since last November its institutional members have increased from 37 to 60, and we continue to receive inquiries (see list of members below). We acknowledge with deep gratitude the Luther I. Replogle Foundation grant which supported our 2007 activities and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation Grant for our library collection. The ARCS Library catalog is already available online (with a link on our website) thanks to the competent and efficient work of Nicolay Sharankov and Hristo Alexiev.

Dr. Theodossiev has been appointed Samuel H. Kress Lecturer by the Archaeological Institute of America. His lecture tour of US universities will take place in Spring 2008, with the following preliminary schedule:

- Ithaca, NY: Topic TBA; Date and Time TBA, Cornell University, Room TBA.
- Williamsburg, VA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Tuesday, March 18, 4:30 PM; College of William and Mary, Room TBA.

At the invitation of the editor of the *American Journal of Archaeology (AJA)* Naomi Norman, ARCS, in collaboration with the National Institute of Archaeology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, has arranged for publication of an Archaeological Newsletter from Bulgaria in the January 2008 issue of *AJA*. The text consists of reports by many archaeologists; the reports were collected and edited by members of the Institute, Ivo Cholakov and Krastyu Chukalev, and then translated into English by members of ARCS, Nora Dimitrova and Kevin Clinton. This will be the first time in history that a comprehensive description of a current season (2006) of major excavations in Bulgaria will be available in print to a worldwide audience of scholars. More than 200 sites in Bulgaria were subject to archaeological work in 2006.

ARCS Assistant Director Dr. Nikola Theodossiev expanded the Bulgarian sector of the international e-journal *Fasti On Line* (www.fastionline.org), published by *Associazione Internazionale di Archeologia Classica* in Rome; currently the journal contains information on more than 100 archaeological sites in Bulgaria. Dr. Theodossiev continued his active service on the editorial board of the international peer-reviewed journal *Ancient West & East*, published by Peeters in Leuven. The main task of these scholarly endeavors is to bring together Eastern and Western scholarship.

- Lynchburg, VA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 PM; Randolph College, Martin 315.
- Richmond, VA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Thursday, March 20, Time TBA; Place TBA.

- Charlottesville, VA: *The Monumental Late Classical and Hellenistic Tholos Tombs in Thrace*, Friday, March 21, 5 PM; University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 160 Campbell Hall.
 - San Francisco, CA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Thursday, April 3, Time TBA; University of California at Berkeley, Room TBA.
 - Stanford, CA: Lecture TBA; Friday, April 4, Time TBA, Stanford University, Room TBA.
 - San Joaquin Valley, CA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Monday, April 7, 7 PM; California State University, Fresno Campus, Business Building, Peters Auditorium.
 - Los Angeles, CA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Wednesday, April 9, Time TBA; University of California at Los Angeles, Room TBA.
 - Athens, GA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Tuesday, April 15, Time TBA; University of Georgia, Room TBA.
 - Atlanta, GA: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Wednesday, April 16, Time TBA; Emory University, Room TBA.
 - Charleston, SC: *Ancient Thrace during the 1st Millennium BC*, Thursday, April 17, 7:30 PM; College of Charleston, Simons Center for the Arts, Room 309.
 - New Orleans, LA: *The Monumental Late Classical and Hellenistic Tholos Tombs in Thrace*, Monday, April 21, 8 PM; Loyola University, Miller Hall, Room 114.
 - Houston, TX: Lecture TBA; Thursday, April 24, Time TBA; Place TBA.
- November 30, 2006 – Dr. Nora Dimitrova gave a lecture at the New Bulgarian University on a new Greek inscription from Samothrace with valuable historical information regarding famous Roman magistrates (Q. Lutatius Catulus and Sulla), Greek cities, and the Mithridatic wars.
 - December 5, 2006 – Professor Kevin Clinton gave the Annual Trustee Lecture at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, entitled "The Mysteries of the Great Gods at Samothrace." The lecture presented new facts and ideas about the cult, based on recent archaeological and epigraphical discoveries.
 - January 4–6, 2007 – Professor Kevin Clinton met with members of the Board of Trustees Professors Glenn Bugh and Lynn Roller, during the Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America.
 - January 30, 2007 – Dr. Nikola Theodossiev attended the General Assembly Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria. Guest speaker at the gathering was Mr. James Rigassio, U.S. Commercial Attaché. His address was entitled "More EU means more U.S. Embassy – AmCham initiatives for 2007".
 - February 2–3, 2007 – Members of ARCS—Glenn Bugh, Michael Maas, Dennis Hughes, Carolyn Snively, Victor Friedman, Nora Dimitrova, Kevin Clinton, and Donna Buchanan—attended a Symposium on Current Issues in Bulgarian Studies, hosted by the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and co-sponsored by the American Research Center in Sofia. The purpose of the symposium was to explore the current status of Bulgarian studies from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives in an international context. The symposium was held in conjunction with the Managing Committee meeting of ARCS.
 - May 13, 2007 – Dr. Nikola Theodossiev attended the Thirteenth Commencement Ceremony at the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) and discussed topics of joint interest with AUBG administrators and faculty members.
 - June 7–9, 2007 – Professor Philip Shashko, ARCS Representative from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, participated in an International Conference "Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the Process of European Integration" that took place at the Ethnographic Museum in Sofia. He visited the ARCS office and discussed Bulgarian and Macedonian historical issues with Professor Kevin Clinton and Dr. Nikola Theodossiev.
 - June 18 – 19, 2007 – John Oakley, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens visited ARCS, which facilitated his study of Attic red figure vases in Bulgarian collections.
 - July 4, 2007 – Professor Kevin Clinton and Dr. Nora Dimitrova attended the official celebration of Independence Day at the American Embassy in Sofia. For many Bulgarians, who recently emerged from a totalitarian society, the celebration of July 4 symbolizes their belonging to the free world. On July 8, 2007 Professor Kevin Clinton, Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, Dr. Nora Dimitrova

trova and Professor Mark Carper, ARCS Representative from the University of Alaska, attended the celebration of Independence Day in the Lozenets Residence, organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria.

- July 16 – 20, 2007 – Professor Michael Maas, ARCS Representative from Rice University, and his wife Professor Paula Sanders visited ARCS and toured museums in Sofia and the picturesque Rila Monastery.
- August 22, 2007 – Dr. Nikola Theodossiev gave lectures on ancient Thrace for the participants in the Fulbright International Summer Institute that took place in Tryavna.
- September 27, 2007 – Dr. Nikola Theodossiev attended a reception in honor of past and present Fulbright Program grantees in the Residence of the Ambassador of the United States of America.
- October 15, 2007 – Professor Kevin Clinton gave a guest lecture at the American University in Bulgaria entitled "The Mysteries of Samothrace and the Last Thracian Kings," and had a cordial discussion with AUBG Professors Evelina Kelbecheva and Mark Stefanovich.

ANNUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

We are happy to report that our first annual program is well under way. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of motivated, curious and supportive students, to whom we extend our warmest thanks. Two of them are 9-month fellows: Eran Livni (Communication and Culture/Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University) and Douglas Park (Anthropology Department, Yale University); and two are for a single term: Jennifer Raines (Anthropology Department, University of Colorado at Boulder) Fall 2007, and Vessela Anguelova (Art History Department, The Pennsylvania State University) Spring 2008. Eran Livni's research at ARCS focuses on folk music in Bulgaria, and his language training consists of intensive Bulgarian classes. Douglas Park's research topic involves archaeology, ethnography, and cultural tourism in the Balkans (Greece, Albania, Bulgaria), while his language training at ARCS includes Bulgarian and Albanian. Jennifer Raines is working on protection of archaeological monuments in Bulgaria, and she is taking Bulgarian lessons. Vessela Anguelova's research will be on architectural representations in religious icons, with language training in Modern Greek and Turkish. The Fall term lectures and trips took place in September and were a great success. We are very grateful to our contributing lecturers—eminent Bulgarian scholars—who illuminated us on a variety of fascinating topics regarding the history of Bulgaria and the region:

1. Professor Nicolay Sharankov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "Language and literacy in Thrace"
2. Dr. Maya Vassileva, Institute of Thracian Studies: "On the Fringes of the Greek World: The Case of the Thracian Culture"
3. Professor Peter Dimitrov, New Bulgarian University: "The Thracian Language: Epigraphics and Linguistics"
4. Professor Lyudmil Vagalinski, National Institute of Archaeology: "National Archaeological Reserve Debelts (SE Bulgaria)- Past, Present and Future"
5. Professor Alexander Nikolov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "The Cumans in Medieval Bulgaria and Hungary: Patterns of Settlement and Integration"
6. Professor Liliana Simeonova, Institute of Balkan Studies: "The Synodus Horrenda of 897: on the Post-humous Trial of Pope Formosus (891–896) and Its Consequences"
7. Dr. Maria Manolova, Varna Free University: "The Bulgarian Mediaeval Town"
8. Professor Ivan Ilchev, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "American-Bulgarian Relations: The First Bulgarians in the USA"
9. Professor Ekaterina Nikova, Institute of Balkan Studies: "Bulgaria Old and Young"
10. Professor Evelina Kelbecheva, American University in Bulgaria: "Communist and Post-communist Monuments in Bulgaria"

Fall Term Trips

1. September 13 – 15, 2007: Led by Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, ARCS fellows Jennifer Raines and Eran Livni and Fulbright fellow Jennifer Cimaglia visited famous ancient sites in Bulgaria. The trip included the Historical Museum of Kazanlak, the Kazanlak tomb, *Golyamata Kosmatka* tomb and *Ostrusha* tomb near Shipka; Plovdiv – Roman Philippopolis (*bouleuterion*, mosaics, theater, Early Byzantine gate, etc.),



The Fellows visit the Roman Theater in Philippopolis, modern Plovdiv



The Museum of Ethnography in Plovdiv



Admiring a Late Roman gate of Diocletianopolis, modern Hisar

Old Town, Museum of Ethnography; Hisar—Archaeological Museum, Late Antique Diocletianopolis (fortification walls, the baths, the imperial residency, tomb with mosaics); Starosel – the tombs in *Chetinyova Mogila* and in *Horizon Tumulus*; Strelcha – the Town Museum and the *Zhaba Mogila* tomb.

2. September 20 – 24, 2007: Our second trip, attended by Jennifer Raines and Eran Livni, had two parts. Part 1, led by Dr. Maria Manolova from the Varna Free University, focused on mediaeval sites: the mediaeval capitals of Pliska, Preslav and Tarnovo, the archaeological museums in Pliska and Preslav and the Museum of History in Veliko Tarnovo. Part 2, led by Nikola Theodossiev, focused on post-mediaeval sites of ethnographical and historical interest: the Old Town and *Daskalovata Kashta* in Tryavna, the Dryanovo Monastery, the *Etara* ethnographic complex near Gabrovo, the Shipka Monument, Koprivshitsa (*Oslekova Kashta*, the houses of Todor Kableshkov, Dimcho Debelyanov, Lyuben Karavelov and Georgi Benkovski).

We are grateful to our driver Anton Kazakov for his competent, skillful and safe guidance.

In early October Dr. Nikola Theodossiev gave guided tours of the National Museum of History and the National Archaeological Museum for the fellows of ARCS. The fellows are now engaged in independent research, trips, and language training.



Wandering through the Ethnographic Park "Etara" near Gabrovo

2008/2009 ARCS ANNUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

For the academic year 2008/2009, ARCS will offer three programs with accompanying fellowships: a 9-month program for the period September-May; a fall term program for the period September-November; and a spring term program for the period February-April. ARCS will host the programs' lectures and seminars, organize related trips, and facilitate opportunities for taking Bulgarian and other Balkan language classes, logistical support, and access to local libraries, museums, and other educational institutions.

1. Those interested in the **9-month program** (only for graduate students) will devote one term of their choice to independent research and travel, and participate in the ARCS academic program during the other term. The content of the Fall and Spring Programs is described below.

2. The **Fall Term Program** is intended for graduate and advanced undergraduate students, scholars and teachers interested in the history, material culture, and civilization of Bulgaria and the Balkan region. The term of the program is from the first Monday of September through the last Saturday of November. The first part of the program consists of lectures, seminars and trips relating to the period from antiquity to the present day. Although most scholars specialize in one historical period, we believe that for students of Bulgarian and Balkan history it will be very helpful to get a diachronic overview from local experts. The second part of the program will include independent research in local libraries and optional trips.

3. The **Spring Term Program** is intended for graduate and advanced undergraduate students, teachers and scholars interested in the history of religion in Bulgaria from antiquity to the 20th century, including ancient religion, Christianity (Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and other Christian faiths and movements), Judaism, and Islam. The term of the program is from the first Monday of February to the last Saturday of April. The first part of the program will consist of lectures and seminars by local experts, and the second

part of the program will include independent research in local libraries and trips to famous Bulgarian religious sites, many of which are part of the world's cultural heritage.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduate and advanced undergraduate students at educational institutions registered in North America, regardless of their citizenship, are eligible for fellowships. Students with partial support or without support from ARCS can apply for alternative sources of funding. Faculty members at these institutions are welcome to participate in the programs or part thereof, but are not eligible for fellowships.

Graduate Students: Please submit a project proposal (up to three double-spaced pages) describing how participation in the ARCS Fall/Spring or 9-month program will serve your academic interests and/or dissertation research. The proposal, together with the application form, a CV, copies of official transcripts from each graduate institution you have attended, and two letters of reference in a signed sealed envelope from professors who are familiar with your academic work, should be mailed to the Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Professor Kevin Clinton, 120 Goldwin Smith Hall, Department of Classics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 14853.

Advanced Undergraduate Students: Please submit a project proposal (up to three double-spaced pages) describing how participation in the ARCS Fall/Spring program will serve your academic interests. The proposal, together with the application form, a CV, copies of official transcripts from each undergraduate institution you have attended, and two letters of reference in a signed sealed envelope from professors who are familiar with your academic work, should be mailed to the Chair of the Fellowship Committee (address as above).

Faculty Members: Please submit an application form, a project proposal (up to three double-spaced pages) describing how participation in the ARCS Fall/Spring program will serve your academic interests, and a CV to Professor Kevin Clinton (address as above).

Please visit our website (www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs/) for more information or contact Professor Kevin Clinton via e-mail at kmc1@cornell.edu.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2008

REPORTS

ARCS is engaged in a number of joint projects in a variety of disciplines, carried out in collaboration with scholars and institutions worldwide: our colleagues report on three such initiatives.

"BALKANALIA" INITIATES BULGARIAN MUSIC AND CULTURE SEMINAR

Donna A. Buchanan
Director, Russian, East European, and Eurasian
Center
Associate Professor, School of Music
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"Take us to the Balkans!" For years the members of "Balkanalia", the University of Illinois Balkan Music Ensemble, passionate about the music they performed and eager to learn more about the cultures from which it originated, had pestered director Donna Buchanan to organize a group excursion to Bulgaria, her primary area of ethnomusical specialization. With the generous logis-

tical assistance of the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS), in late spring 2007 this dream became a reality. From 22 May – 5 June 2007, eighteen current and alumni "Balkanalia" members participated in a two-week Bulgarian traditional music and culture seminar. Organized in partial celebration of the group's tenth anniversary, this seminar involved English-language lectures given by local scholars on Bulgarian popular culture, textiles, and history; master classes and lessons in indigenous musical styles and techniques taught by local musicians and vocalists; and educational excursions to museums, historic and architecturally significant sites, and artistic events.

A week of intensive daily rehearsal and instructional activities on the Illinois campus, culminat-

ing in a "farewell" concert on 20 May, launched the tour. Although based in Sofia for much of the trip, the ensemble also traveled widely, performing three well-received concerts of Bulgarian, Greek, Macedonian, Serbian, and Turkish folk music in various parts of the country. The first took place at the Opera House on Blagoevgrad's main square on 26 May. Hosted by the American University in Bulgaria, with which Illinois established a bi-institutional relationship in June 2007, this charming, serene, and pedestrian-friendly city was among the group's favorite sites. The splendid Aula of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", with which Illinois signed a similar institutional agreement in November 2006, was the setting of "Balkanalia"'s second performance, held on 29 May in conjunction with the annual "Days of Bulgarian Culture" celebration. The group also appeared at the international Festival of the Roses on 2 June, an annual, two-day event held in the town of Kazanlak, in central Bulgaria's Thracian plain, that draws visitors and performers from all over the world. Two of the performances were televised and clips shown on local news broadcasts.

Beyond the basic itinerary, almost every day brought unanticipated surprises that greatly enhanced the seminar's educational value and artistic appeal. Participants found that they could climb all over the magnificent stone walls of Hisarya, ancient Diocletianopolis boasting one of the best preserved Roman ruins in the country, and basked in the late afternoon sun on the steep, hillside steps of Plovdiv's spectacular outdoor second-century A.D. Roman theater as a soundcheck was being conducted for an unexpected evening performance of Romani music. Despite the fact that it was a national holiday, in Sofia, Svetoslav Baltakov, director of the Macedonian Ensemble "Ilinden," organized a rehearsal for "Balkanalia" to observe that led to joint impromptu music-making and dancing. After attending a private, thirty-minute performance by the National Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances "Philip Koutev" so overwhelming in its power and beauty that it moved many Balkanians to tears, the group was interviewed by one of the country's leading movie directors concerning their interest in Bulgarian music. The director was beginning work on a new feature film whose cast of characters includes a foreigner drawn to Bulgarian folklore, and the ensemble's remarks served as a resource for probing this at-

traction. A chance encounter in the tiny, architecturally significant village of Melnik, situated on southwestern Bulgaria's border with Greece, prompted Elena Georgieva-Kamenarova and her husband, Jane Kamenarov, two musically gifted visual artists who have made it their life's mission to understand, preserve, and popularize the fast disappearing musical traditions of the area's older generation, to treat "Balkanalia" to a spontaneous ninety-minute performance and discussion of their work inside the canvas-lined walls of their crowded studio.

An unforgettably jolting and cramped taxi-van ride across Sofia's cobblestone streets and up the surrounding slopes of Vitosha Mountain brought "Balkanalia" to the village of Vlodaya, where they had opportunity to listen to, converse and sing with the brothers Dimitar and Vladimir Mitev, the only male duo that continues to perform a specific style of two-part singing indicative of the Shop ethnographic region. And in old Plovdiv, after applauding furiously beneath an open window of the Academy of Music, Dance, and Fine Arts as the city's wind band concluded a buoyant *daichovo horo*, Balkanians found their way upstairs at the invitation of the band's director, entering the rehearsal room just as his band struck up John Philip Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and several Bulgarian marches in their honor, only to learn that some band members had recently toured the U.S. with a national ensemble that performed at the University of Illinois's Krannert Center for the Performing Arts!

While Buchanan arranged the seminar's educational and musical program as well as the group's transatlantic travel, ARCS graciously and efficiently secured hotels and rehearsal space and a contract with a local bus company to facilitate in-country transportation. The Center also offered its library as a venue for seminar lectures and, in general, tirelessly ensured that all local arrangements unfolded smoothly. This invaluable assistance, together with the incomparable hospitality of the many individuals "Balkanalia" encountered and the impeccable musical instruction provided by members of the Philip Koutev, Pirin, Bulgarian Radio, and other professional folk ensembles, made this trip a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all concerned and provided a powerful model for similar, future endeavors.



David Cubberly and Nick Georgopoulos receive personalized instruction from a Bulgarian tambura player during a master class with the Macedonian Ensemble "Ilinden"



"Balkanalia"'s concert in the Aula of the Sofia University



"Balkanalia"'s concert at the "Festival of the Roses" in Kazanlak

NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IN KABYLE

Shawn Ross & Adela Sobotkova

Introduction and personnel

A new research project has been launched to explore the site and environs of the ancient city of Kabyle, in the Yambol Region of Bulgaria. Principal researchers include Dr. Shawn Ross (Lecturer in History, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia) and Ms. Adela Sobotkova (Doctoral Student, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA), in collaboration with Professor Totko Stoyanov, Professor Kostadin Rabadzhiev and Professor Ivailo Lozanov, members of the Department of Archaeology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." The project is realized thanks to the administrative and logistic support of the American Research Center in Sofia and with the help of Iliya Iliev and Stefan Bakardzhiev of the Yambol Museum of History. During the 2007 season, Dr. Shawn Ross was appointed a Research Associate at the American Research Center in Sofia. Dr. Ross and Ms. Sobotkova spent three weeks undertaking research at the American Research Center in Sofia and at the Library of the National Archaeological Institute and Museum in Sofia, and fieldwork in and around the Archaeological Reserve of Kabyle during June, 2007, joined for

one week by Dr. Samsung Lim (Senior Lecturer, School of Surveying and Spatial Analysis, University of New South Wales), a Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist.

Rationale and research objectives

The region surrounding Kabyle is an archaeologically important area for a number of reasons. First, it escaped subsequent development. Comparable Hellenistic and Roman sites have been overbuilt by medieval and modern cities (Philippolis / Plovdiv) or flooded by reservoirs (Seuthopolis). As a result, Kabyle is one of the best preserved ancient cities in Bulgaria. Second, much of the area around Kabyle was a closed military zone during the Cold War, so its hinterland has also experienced limited development. Furthermore, agricultural practices in the countryside have not been so destructive to material remains as is the case at comparable sites in more developed countries, such as Greece or Italy. Third, the Thracian plain is known from Greek and Roman written sources to have been one of the richest parts of the Classical world, yet the foundations of its economy, such as settlement patterns and agricultural practices – and how these changed over time – are not well understood. Finally, Kabyle and its environs offer a unique opportunity to study the impact of Greek colonization, Macedonian con-

quest, and Roman imperialism on a sophisticated indigenous population. Greek colonies lie on the Black Sea coast, about 70 km away. Philip II conquered the area in the 340s BC and established Kabyle as a stronghold, but after about two generations it reverted to Thracian control and eventually became a royal residence. In the 70s BC the Roman general Lucullus incorporated Thrace into the Roman Empire. Thus Kabyle offers an unparalleled case study in the effects of colonization and imperialism on the economic, social, and cultural evolution of a major urban site and its hinterland.

In other parts of the Classical world, Greek colonization and Roman imperialism engendered complex responses of acculturation, exchange, and resistance, reflected in changing material culture, settlement patterns, mortuary practices, and other aspects of the archaeological record. For example, recent archaeological research by the Dutch Institute in Rome in the region of Taranto in southern Italy concerning Greek colonization (8th – 3rd centuries BC) has replaced a simple narrative of Greek conquest and settlement with one that includes the rise of politically independent, culturally mixed communities along the boundaries between Greek and indigenous territories. Well beyond the territories directly controlled by the Greeks, colonization seems to have spurred developments such as urbanization, increased prosperity, and selective Hellenization among indigenous communities. By contrast, the Roman conquest of Apulia seems to have brought about depopulation and abandonment of many inland sites, suggestive of the troubled relationship between Rome and Taranto, and perhaps the broader Italian “rural crisis” of the 2nd century BC. Archaeological research in and around Kabyle should allow the development of such narratives describing cultural interaction in the Thracian Plain.

With these ideas in mind, our research focuses on two main questions: (1) what was the nature of settlement, agricultural, and other social, cultural, and economic patterns in antiquity; and (2) how did these patterns change in response to Greek colonization, the Macedonian conquest, and incorporation of Thrace into the Roman Empire.

The 2007 field season

As part of a UNSW Faculty Research Grant awarded for spatial analysis and archaeology in early 2007, a 100 square km high-resolution

Quickbird satellite image centered on the site of Kabyle was acquired. Analysis of this image was undertaken in June 2007. Analysis consisted of rectification and projection of the image to produce an accurate base map, recording of the agricultural conditions in fields around Kabyle, and identification of features in the image that may be associated with past human activity. Some preliminary ground control to assess the association of such features with past human activity was also begun. This analysis is progressing in tandem with a comparative project in the Puglia region of Italy (centred on the ancient site of L'Amasuola).

During the final week of June 2007, Dr. Samsung Lim georeferenced, rectified, and projected the satellite image to transform it into a highly accurate, large-scale map. Thirty-two clearly discernible, randomly distributed Screen Points (SCRs) were noted on the image. They were then visited in the field and their position recorded with a consumer-grade Etrex Vista C handheld GPS device. Ground Control Points (GCPs) collected in this manner were then matched to the SCRs, providing their true coordinates. The error of the GPS receiver varied from 4-5 m throughout the two days. This error needs to be understood as a combination of two factors: (1) the low quality of the receiver and (2) interference from trees and other obstacles that contribute to poor reception of GPS satellite signals. The latter problem was, for the most part, avoided by careful selection of GCPs. The receiver, however, produces a random error that is harder to eliminate. Such an error could have been avoided by the use of a survey-quality, differential GPS receiver. Due to the expense and limited availability of such receivers, another approach was employed. Additional points were collected and used selectively according to their quality. After rectification using ArcGIS, an average residual error of about 8 m remained. The image was then projected to local coordinate system (WGS 84, UTM 35N). The 8 m average error, combined with the 0.62 m resolution of the panchromatic satellite image, yield a much more accurate and detailed product than any available map of the area, one entirely suitable for archaeological research.

Fieldwork during June 2007 also included visits to the agricultural fields visible in the satellite image. The land use and agricultural condition of over 500 fields were recorded and entered into an MS Access database. Reports generated from this data will inform our plans for archaeo-

logical surface survey (see below). Although the configuration of fields and the particular crops grown in each may vary from year to year, these records provide a good indication of the typical agriculture of the region, and will allow any future archaeological survey to coincide with the ploughing of the fields. Luckily, most of the agriculture in the area involves the growing of a limited number of annual crops (cereal grains, sunflower, tobacco, etc.) that require ploughing in March and/or October. Ploughing depth appears to average about 20-25 cm, enough to bring ancient material to the surface, but not nearly as destructive as the 40-50 cm ploughing common in southern Italy, for example. Also unlike Italy, there are few walls, fences, ravines, or other barriers to accessing the fields. As a result, a properly timed archaeological survey would encounter nearly ideal conditions.

In addition to rectifying the satellite image and recording information about land use around Kabyle, over 100 features of interest identified in the satellite image were visited during June 2007. Among these features were regular or rectilinear crop marks, soil marks, and earthen features, which often represent the buried remains of manmade structures. Such traces of past human activity, even when invisible from the ground, are nevertheless discernible in properly manipulated multi-spectral satellite imagery. Spatial and spectral enhancements performed in Geomatica Freeview software highlighted suspect features, which were visited for further assessment. Several features were dismissed after a single visit due to the fact that they were of obviously modern or natural origin (filled gullies, wetlands, former irrigation canals, etc.). Several turned out to be features such as mounds or ditches, but the dating of these features awaits the collection of surface material. Still others have been flagged for revisit due to dense vegetation that prevented adequate inspection. Finally, several days were spent at the American Research Center in Sofia using its facilities and at the Library of the National Archaeological Institute and Museum in Sofia locating and photographing publications not readily available outside of Bulgaria, especially those concerning Kabyle, settlement patterns on the Thracian Plain, and paleo-environmental research in southeast Bulgaria.

Overall, the relatively short first season of work in Bulgaria proved very fruitful. The rectified satellite image will serve as a highly accurate and detailed base map, forming a critical part of a GIS informing future archaeological work in the region. Recording land use in the fields surrounding Kabyle will also facilitate planning of a future archaeological surface survey. Preliminary ground control has begun the process of associating features visible in the satellite image with sites and other areas of archaeological interest on ground, although additional analysis of the image and the collection of surface material will be necessary to continue this process. In sum, the ground has been prepared for future work to understand past human activity and the natural environment in the region of Kabyle, and their interaction with one another over time.

Outlook for future work

An agreement has been signed between Dr. Ross and Associate Professor Totko Stoyanov, Chair of the Department of Archaeology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" outlining future collaborative work. In 2008, Dr. Ross and Ms. Sobotkova plan to begin archaeological surface survey with a small team of Bulgarian and foreign students. Surface survey involves systematically walking agricultural fields shortly after they have been ploughed, recording all ancient material visible on the ground and collecting samples for dating and further study. Surface material often indicates the presence of ancient sites – villages and farmhouses, for example – which can then be explored further through geophysical investigation or excavation. Locating such sites sheds light on ancient settlement patterns and, when combined with additional research, will illuminate the social, cultural, and economic context of Kabyle. To facilitate the interpretation of data collected through surface survey, funds are currently being sought to construct a digital terrain model, commission a geomorphological study, and undertake paleo-environmental research in the vicinity of Kabyle. Combining these elements will allow a reconstruction of the ancient environment and changes in it over time. The goal of this research is to understand as many dimensions as possible of the system of settlement, agriculture, and trade that underpinned the economy of the Thracian Plain, which ancient sources tell us was one of the richest areas in the Greco-Roman world.



Samsung Lim, Shawn Ross and Adela Sobotkova at the archaeological site of Kabyle



Observing excavations of burial mounds near Yambol



The research team and scholars from the Sofia University and ARCS in front of the University Library

BACK TO BULGARIA

by Mark Carper

Mark Carper, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage, was quite pleased to be back in Sofia for a short visit this recent July. The sites, the sounds, the cuisine, and the opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones, all made for a very agreeable trip. But there was an occupational purpose to his trip as well. Tasked by his home institution, he returned to the Black Sea region to conduct research, to develop a geography field course, and to pursue institutional exchange opportunities in Bulgaria as well as in the Republic of Georgia. Mark began coming to Bulgaria several years ago. Supported by a Fulbright scholarship, he lived in Sofia during the 2002 – 2003 academic year in order to conduct his dissertation research, during which time he also interned at the Sofia Energy Agency (SOFENA) and carried out a small research project on scrap recycling for the United Nations Development Programme in Bulgaria. He has been back many times since, and he now serves as the Representative of the University of Alaska as an Institutional Member of ARCS. His most recent writings have been on the changing electricity sector in southeast

Europe, primarily as the result of Kozloduy's closure of reactors three and four as well as the liberalization of the electricity market. During his visit this past summer, he made use of the ARCS facilities to update a paper on this issue and to prepare it for journal submission. In addition, he began setting the groundwork for a geography field course in which participants would visit several countries across the Balkans, learning directly about the regional geography, culture, and socioeconomic conditions. This is planned to be an extended version of the course he organized in the summer of 2006 in which he and his students toured the Bulgarian countryside and into Istanbul. The course expansion will include the western countries of the peninsula, and there is the intention to make the course into two parts, with the second part traveling to the Republic of Georgia to study the eastern region of the Black Sea. At his home institution there has been growing interests in the available ARCS programs, and Mark hopes that soon there will be more visitors arriving from Alaska. After completing his work in Bulgaria, he then traveled to the Republic of Georgia to visit with a couple of universities to facilitate exchange opportunities for students and faculty and to also conduct some preliminary research into the development of the energy sector, similar to what he has done in Bulgaria.

REVIEWS

ARCS is pleased to bring to your attention two important recent works on Bulgaria.

1. *Fulbrighters in Retirement: Networking with Bulgarians Keeps Us Engaged* by Roy and Anne Freed. ISBN: 978-1-4257-5024-4. Paperback, Xlibris, 359 pages. Reviewed by Nora Dimitrova.

"Bulgaria is a country worth getting to know. One might say that its time has come."

These words, which wonderfully illustrate ARCS's mission, conclude this recently published memoir by Anne and Roy Freed. They are cited in an Appendix, containing a fascinating letter about Bulgaria, written by David Harris, head of the American Jewish Committee.

"Fulbrighters in Retirement" is a goldmine of information on Bulgaria's most recent history, interspersed with amazing stories and astute observations. The Freed's visited Bulgaria for the first time in 1987 in order to reunite with a dear friend, from whom the Iron Curtain had separated them for four decades. Little did they know then that they would visit Bulgaria 14 times, become prominent Bulgaphiles, and be awarded Bulgaria's highest civilian recognition: Cavaliers of the Madara Horseman, First Degree.

In 1989, months before the velvet coup that led to the bloodless but painfully slow crumbling of Bulgarian Communism, Anne and Roy came to Sofia as Fulbrighters, to teach, respectively, psychodynamic psychology and American law. They brought with them their contagious love of freedom and upbeat optimism, and became part of the Bulgarian awakening. In a time when the country was economically and spiritually impoverished, following decades of brutal physical and mental repression, Anne and Roy managed to see and admire Bulgaria's historical and cultural wealth and its greatest resource: the many intelligent, talented, and open-hearted people.

This memoir, which the authors wrote at the venerable age of 90, preserves for posterity their encounters with numerous Bulgarians of various social and ideological backgrounds, all of whom were embraced by the Freed's kindness of mind and heart. Anne and Roy provided material and moral support for countless Bulgarians at home and in the US; they created an incredible network of fruitful contacts; supported visa applications and acted as citizen diplomats to bring the two worlds closer; established the revolutionary School of Clinical Social Work at the New Bulgarian University; and pro-

moted free enterprise and cultural tourism in Bulgaria through a partnership with Elderhostel.

The book also recounts, with authentic historical documentation, one of the brightest episodes in the turbulent 20th century Bulgarian history: the saving of 50,000 Jews during WWII.

This lengthy memoir, written in sophisticated style and with poignant humor, will delight not only those whose lives and careers are connected with Bulgaria and Eastern Europe. It is also a universally appealing story of beneficence, love and generosity. As Roy shared with Canton (Massachusetts) journalist Seth Jacobson in an interview entitled *Life, Love, and Memoirs*, "What stood out for me during this whole experience was the satisfaction of helping people."

2. *Hell in Heaven (И в рая има ад): A Film By Atanas Kiriakov.* Director of photography: Anton Bakarski. Music: Teodosii Spasov. Producer: Penko Roussev. Film company Two and a Half 2006. 90 min. English and French subtitles. Quoted from www.filmgroueff.com:

"This film imprints the last confession by Stefane Groueff, Bulgarian journalist and world-famous writer. The shooting of the film with the participation of Stefane Groueff in Southampton was finished on March 22, 2006. On May 2, 2006 Stefane Groueff left this world.

"This film can teach a lot about the tragic fate of thousands of Bulgarians – victims of the communist regime. This film could be a mirror for every emigrant soul – of the division between the big world and the motherland, of the still burning pain and insights for good and bad. The re-created unusual destiny of the Bulgarian political emigrant Stefane Groueff comprises:

- His banishment from Bulgaria and his taking up the cross of emigration after the communist coup d'état in 1944
- His brilliant careers as a journalist at the "Paris Match" journal and as a well-known writer in America
- The death sentence of his father Pavel Gruev, chief of the personal office of Tsar Boris III, carried out by the communist regime
- His entry into the intellectual elite of Europe and the United States

- The tragic fate of his closest relatives – his mother, his brother and sister, who were exiled for a long period of time to the most isolated places of the country
- His personal life on two continents, his incredibly happy marriage with the American Lille, his presence in the social life and his friendships with famous persons all the way from Paris to Hollywood
- His journalistic work for "Free Europe" and "The Voice of America"
- His unique coverage of the events in Egypt: the dethronement of the Egyptian king Farouk; his meetings with Naguib and Nasser; the coverage of the coronation ceremony of Elizabeth II in 1953; the reports on Fidel Castro coming to power.
- The writing of the books "The Manhattan Project", "Crown of Thorns," and "My Odyssey"
- The life in Bulgaria before and after September 9, 1944
- The inner flow of his consciousness, torn apart by the feeling of personal well-being and the pain for his loved ones in Bulgaria
- Reflections on the political cataclysms of the 20th century transmitted through the prism of Humanity, the prism of that tiny great Good that everyone holds in his hands
- Unique illustration of the history of that century, presented in a special global perspective
- The happy-and-sad revelation of Bulgaria after the changes..."

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