



THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN SOFIA

Newsletter No. 9, Summer 2012

In October 2011, the ARCS Academic Program visited northwest Bulgaria, pausing to enjoy the view from Belogradchik fortress west to the Serbian frontier.



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ARCS recognizes with gratitude those institutions and individuals who have made generous financial donations in support of the Center in the past year (July 2011 - July 2012):

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For the period between July 2011 and July 2012 ARCS received donations or pledges towards the NEH Challenge Grant in the amount of \$133,895.59. Thank you for your trust and foresight!

The purpose of the endowment is to generate revenue for staff salaries and the library. The NEH matches every three dollars from private donations with a dollar. Building an endowment is part of ARCS's strategy towards a financially sustainable future. If you are interested donating, please visit the ARCS website (www.arcssofia.org) or contact Todor Petev, Director of the US Office of ARCS, by phone: (917) 572-2491; or by e-mail: usdirector@arcssofia.org.

ARCS Notes

By Denver Graninger, former Director of ARCS (2010-2012), and Todor Petev, Director of the US Office of ARCS

In support of the 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies that took place in Sofia in August 2011, ARCS awarded partial registration fee subsidies to more than 50 Congress participants from Bulgaria and the western Balkans. ARCS hosted a reception during the Congress at Sofia University where the Center's newest publication was presented: *State and Church: Studies in Medieval Bulgaria and Byzantium*. The volume is a collection of 13 important Bulgarian essays translated into English. Both the publication and the registration fee subsidies were generously supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

At the presentation of *State and Church*, ARCS was pleased to announce the winner of an inaugural competition to select a recent, outstanding Bulgarian dissertation, to translate that work into English (after revision), and to distribute the book throughout western Europe and North America. In this first year, the subject field was limited to medieval history. The 2006 Sofia University dissertation of Dr. Elena Kostova on the subject of *Melnik during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries: Problems of Political and Socio-Economic History* emerged from a deep applicant pool as the strongest work (Figure 1). This competition was made possible thanks to

the support of Robert and Nellie Gipson and, as a result of their generosity, continues for a second year, with an emphasis now on the field of Ottoman history.

In the past year ARCS organized and sponsored a range of academic and public events in the US that heightened the interest in current research in Bulgaria, debated topics in Bulgaria's past and present, and spearheaded new academic initiatives. In October 2011, Todor Petev, the Director of the US Office of ARCS, made a series of presentations in Chicago dedicated to raising awareness in the scholarly and business community about the work of ARCS. These events were a successful start of ARCS outreach program in the US and we are grateful to ARCS Trustee, Betsy Gebhard, and to our colleagues at the Field Museum, Bill Parkinson and Dilyana Ivanova, for their support.

In early January, Denver Graninger organized a panel of scholarly papers on the topic of *'Beyond Thrace: Recent Fieldwork in Bulgaria'* for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). Thanks to a generous grant by America for Bulgaria Foundation, ARCS was able to sponsor the participation of two Bulgarian archaeologists. The



Figure 1: Dr. Elena Kostova (left), Professor Liliana Simeonova (center), and Denver Graninger (right) toast Kostova's achievements at the ARCS reception for *State and Church* during the 22nd International Congress of Byzantine Studies.

Figure 2: H.E. Mr. Stefan Tafrov (right), Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York, speaking at the seminar at Harvard.



good attendance and lively interest in the topics signals the need for continuous representation of the region at this professional platform.

Again, in January, Todor Petev presented at a conference entitled *'Conversations on Byzantine Archaeology in North America'* at Dumbarton Oaks. The forum gathered over fifty scholars and administrators of American Overseas Research Centers (AORCs). Todor's presentation highlighted the underrated research opportunities in Bulgaria and outlined specific suggestions for collaborative projects among AORCs in the region. The appeal heightened the interest and some inquiries and concrete offers have started coming from scholars and institutions.

In May the Center organized at Harvard's Center for Government and International Studies a seminar entitled *'Bulgaria's Evolution since 1989: International and Domestic Dimensions'*. The seminar was directed by Prof. Mark Kramer, Harvard University. Among the participants were: Stefan Tafrov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN; Venelin Ganev, Professor in the Department of Political Science at Miami University of Ohio; Nassya Kravevska, journalist and author; and Nikolay Valkov, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (Figure 2). The event attracted scholars, graduate stu-

dents, former Fulbright Fellows and Peace Corps volunteers in Bulgaria, as well as the general public. A link to Irina Nedeva's report on the event, broadcast on Bulgarian National Radio, can be found in the news section on the ARCS website.

At the end of May, thanks to a grant by the America for Bulgaria Foundation, ARCS supported the participation of three young Bulgarian scholars, Ivan Hristov, Mila Maeva, and Vanya Stoyanova at the IX Joint Meeting of North American and Bulgarian Scholars held by the Bulgarian Studies Association at the University of Oregon, Eugene.

In June, the Center organized screenings of *"Göç: Stepping Across the Border,"* a documentary on the forceful renaming of Bulgarian Turks in the mid- and late 80ties of XXth century, at the Consulate General of Bulgaria in New York City and American University in Washington, D.C. The screenings were followed by discussions with Irina Nedeva, co-director of the documentary. The event in New York attracted about forty people, some of whom travelled from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Among the attendants were at least half a dozen ethnic Turks who experienced the renaming process first hand. The discussion continued for hours at the reception that followed the event. The

screening of *Göç* in Washington, D.C. was attended by Ambassadors Sol Polansky and James Pardew, among others.

In the spring ARCS launched an internship program aiming to give first-hand experience in management and administration of academic not-for-profit organization, while, at the same time, receiving competent help and advice from participating graduate students and young professionals. The Center coordinated the work of seven interns:

-A team of five graduate students at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs — Linley Kirkwood, Shuyue Mao, Javad Rostami, Qinya Wu, and Miao Zhang, under the guidance of Prof. Laurie Miller (Figure 3) — performed a SWOT analysis and assessment of ARCS strategic development plan. They also issued recommendations for the ARCS PR campaign in the US and created promotional samples. The conclusions of their study will be carefully examined by both ARCS Board and staff;

-Irina Nedeva, a Senior Editor at Bulgarian National Radio and 2012-13 Hubert Humphrey Fellow at the University of Maryland, College Park, prepared a report on the communication strategy of ARCS in Bulgarian public space. The screenings and the discussions of her documentary *Göç* in New York and in Washington, D.C. were also part of her internship experience;

-and Eliana Miteva, an M.B.A. candidate at the Goldey Beacom College, Wilmington, DE, significantly expanded the database of institutions with potential interest in the ARCS academic programs and research projects. Her work contributed to the record number of applications for the Academic Fellowship competition this year. She is currently continuing the work on a database with potential new institutional members in ARCS.

ARCS has welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees in the past year: Dr. Shari Stocker; Mr. Elvin Guri; and Mr. George Sidjimkov. The Center will benefit as a result of their leadership and experience.

In July 2012, Eric C. De Sena, Professor of Art History at John Cabot University in Rome, arrived in Sofia to begin a three-year term as ARCS Director. A specialist in the study of Roman pottery and its implications for understanding trade and economy in Roman antiquity, Eric has extensive archaeological fieldwork experience in Italy and the Balkans. He has co-directed the Porolissum Forum Project in northwestern Romania since 2004. Congratulations, Eric, and *успех!*

Former ARCS Director Denver Graninger has accepted a tenure-track position in History at the University of California, Riverside. He is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with wonderful colleagues in Bulgaria, the Balkans, and beyond, and to participate in the beautiful experiment that is ARCS.



Figure 3: Todor Petev (second from left), Director of the US Office of ARCS, meets with the research team from the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs at the conclusion of their internship.

The ARCS Academic Program explores a subterranean chamber in a recently excavated Roman temple at Stobi in April 2012.



ARCS staff and fellows visit Demir Baba Tekke in September 2011.



ARCS Academic Program, 2011-2012

By Denver Graninger, former Director of ARCS (2010-2012)

The Academic Program, unique in the Balkans, remains the heart of ARCS. The program offers its participants: first-hand exposure to a broad range of the most historically and culturally significant monuments and museums in Bulgaria and neighboring countries through a series of five study trips; the opportunity to pursue intensive study in Bulgarian or other Balkan language important for their research; engagement with local experts in fellows' research areas; and, most importantly, ample time to conduct thesis and dissertation research.

ARCS welcomed nine students into the 2011-2012 Academic Program. Here follows a list of these students, their institutional affiliations, the titles of their research projects, and the duration of their residence:

Mehmet Celik, University of Texas, Austin, 'Ottoman Reform and Urban Change: Muslims and Christians in Danubian Ruse, 1829-1878': full year

John Gorczyk, Cornell University, 'Neolithic Bulgaria': full year

Veneta Ivanova, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, "'Unity, Creativity,

Beauty": Culture, Nationalism, and Occult Communism in Late Socialist Bulgaria': full year

Joe Ricci, Princeton University, 'Nomads in Late Antiquity: The Development of an East Roman-Pontic Steppe Symbiosis, Attila to Asparuch': fall only

Natalia Rusnac, UCLA, 'The Patriarchate in Constantinople prior to 1453': spring only

Whitney Snead, University of Cincinnati, 'The Bosporan Kingdom': full year

Emily Spratt, Princeton University, 'Byzantium not Forgotten: Constructing the Artistic and Cultural Legacy of an Empire between East and West in the Early Modern Period': spring only

Marijana Vukovic, Central European University, 'Remembering the Saint: Irenaeus of Sirmium in Medieval Hagiographies and Beyond': full year

Kathleen Weigand, Trinity College, Dublin, 'Irish and Bulgarian Artists from the early 20th century': fall only



Dr. Emil Nankov, ARCS Archaeology Program Officer presents the Roman fortress Castra Martis at Kula, northwest Bulgaria, to ARCS fellows in October 2011.

'If Only These Walls Could Talk': Bulgarian Survivors Recall the Camp and Prison Communist Past

A Reflection on the Challenges of Recording (Silenced) Oral History Narratives of Political Violence

By Lilia Topouzova, Doctoral candidate, Department of History, University of Toronto, and former ARCS Fellow (Spring 2011)

On a misty summer day in 2006, I made my way across northeastern Bulgaria, arriving in the city of Russe. Situated on the right bank of the Danube River, Russe is renowned for its neo-baroque architectural landmarks and lush nature parks once threatened by pollution from a nearby factory in neighbouring Romania. Despite a steady economic decline, Russe continues to attract some tourists interested in its historical heritage. I found myself standing on the outskirts of the city, in the midst of a panel block neighbourhood of grey crumbling buildings, ubiquitous reminders of the country's communist past. A far cry from Rousse's neo-roccoco sites, my visit to the panel quarter was still of historical nature. I was meeting with Krum Horozov (Figure 1), a former political prisoner, who had spent eleven years in Bulgarian camps and prisons during the 1950s and early 1960s. Horozov had written books about his odyssey through the communist system of repression and he had published an album with impressive sketches and drawings of the notorious Belene prison - camp Island. None of his works, however, was available for purchase in bookstores across the country. In fact, Horozov's industrious efforts to preserve the memory of political violence and to reaffirm his story of survival remained confined to self-publishing. His detailed and informative narrative would have not made it onto these pages, had it not been for a chance meeting a few days earlier which had led me to Horozov's home. At the end of our interview, as he stood at his front door to see me off, visibly moved by our conversation, he made me promise that I will continue my research: 'Our voices would not suffice, there needs to be others', he pleaded. In the coming months, I went on a quest to hear more of their voices but my search was often complicated by lack of resources.

The official bookstore of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski', did not carry scholarly publications or survivors' memoirs on the camp past. In Sofia's book market, sales of autobiographies of former members of the Bulgarian Communist Party and generals from the Secret Police had been far more successful than the memoirs of survivors. 'Out of fashion' was how the owner of a prominent second-hand bookshop in the capital put it. Yet there was a time, in the immediate aftermath of 1989, when the stories of survivors of political violence were relevant. In the early months of 1990, the pages of the then newly uncensored press were filled with accounts of brutality and violence perpetrated behind prison bars and barbed wire. For a short while, tales of atrocities roused public opinion. Former camp and prison inmates became heroes of the day, but their time in the public eye was short-lived.

Twenty-two years after the collapse of the communist regime, the history of the Bulgarian camp and prison system remains untold and the voices of the men and women who became its victims are still unheard. It is in this context that in the winter and spring of 2011, I embarked on an oral history project under the auspices of the American Research Center in Sofia, entitled: 'Who is the Bulgarian Survivor? Oral Histories of Internment and Exile'. Defined as 'the interviewing of eye-witness participants in the events of the past for the purposes of historical reconstruction', oral history is a contested area of historical research because of issues of memory and interpretation [1]. In this particular project, there was an added dimension of difficulty, namely what one of Bulgaria's leading authors, Georgi Gospodinov, has eloquently termed 'an exceptional culture of silence'. To begin excavating the voices and stories of peo-

Figure 1: Krum Horozov, New Bulgarian University, March 2011.



ple who were interned in forced-labour camps, punishment prisons and deported to exile villages during the 1940s, the 1950s, the 1960s and the 1970s, is in itself a difficult task. Even more so, when we consider that these narratives are deeply rooted in a culture of silence: the ‘conformist silence’ of the communist period, the ‘continuing silence’ of the transitional years, and, I would add, the current ‘silence of indifference’ [2].

These challenges notwithstanding, during the months of February, March, and April 2011, I travelled across Bulgaria and met with over thirty individuals, and I recorded a total of twenty interviews. The interviews portray a wide range of experiences: enduring the prisons for those who were sentenced and stood through a trial as opposed to those who were interned in camps without a trial or sentence; the difference between forced-labor camps and

prisons which imposed a harsh, punitive regime; material details of everyday life in these institutions; the fate of those who were exiled in remote rural locations; the inability to discuss the internment and the deportations after many were released; living with the trauma and, for many, with the shame of the experience after the fall of the communist regime. One of the main goals of the oral history project was to capture the experience of both men and women, and in this instance, gender played a particularly important role in how people lived through repression. Without exception, from a male perspective, the regime in the camps was much more difficult to endure than the one in prisons. Conversely, women's experiences tend to indicate the life in camps was preferable to the one in prisons. Chronology often determines context and in this case, periodization played a key factor in how people existed but also survived through the camp system. The regime in camp settlements in the mid to late 1940s was not as ruthless and most people who passed through them were able to survive. Life in the Belene, hybrid prison-camp Island tended to vary depending on the year of internment and on the camp commander. According to most narratives, 1956 to 1959 were the most difficult years for camp inmates and for prisoners. The Bulgarian camp population

reached its peak in the late 1950s and this coincides with functioning of the most violent camp, Lovech, which was in existence from 1959 to 1962.

What I have outlined above are suggestive details and directions for further inquiry. One conclusion that can be reached at this point of the research is that for all of the interviewees, repression is a continued experience, one that outlasts the release from a camp or a prison. All of the men and women who shared their stories are invariably and forever marked by their internment. The trauma of the camp and the prison is at the center of their lives even today, at a time when they can openly discuss their experiences. In order to address the needs of the interviewees, to truly grasp the events, which had 'an endless impact' on their lives, the methodology employed is based on the 'life-stories' model of oral history, developed by the Center for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, hosted by Concordia University in Montreal [3]. This interview process aims at extending the interview beyond the narrative of atrocity to a more in-depth account of each personal experience. Thus, the project also sheds light on the identity formation of survivors of violence during the communist and the post-communist eras.

'The interviews portray a wide range of experiences: enduring the prisons for those who were sentenced and stood through a trial as opposed to those who were interned in camps without a trial or sentence; the difference between forced-labor camps and prisons which imposed a harsh, punitive regime; material details of everyday life in these institutions; the fate of those who were exiled in remote rural locations; the inability to discuss the internment and the deportations after many were released; living with the trauma and, for many, with the shame of the experience after the fall of the communist regime'.

One last question that ought to be asked is why embark on this project now, so many years after the camps have closed down and at a time when this difficult past has somehow receded into the background of contemporary Bulgarian society. The most obvious answer would be that there is a gap in the historical scholarship that ought to be addressed and that this project would enrich our knowledge of state repression in communist Bulgaria. While this is valid, I do believe that there is a more pressing reason. Speaking of a different atrocity and in another context, French philosopher, Jean Baudrillard highlighted the importance of remembering: 'forgetting the extermination is part of the extermination, because it is also the extermination of memory, of history, of the social, etc.' [4]. While it is important to note that the Bulgarian camp and prison system was certainly not exterminatory, it is equally essential for us understand its violent nature and to respect the memory of those who survived it.

In March 2011, I met again with Krum Horozov. He was attending a two-day conference at New Bulgarian University in Sofia, dedicated to resistance movements against the Bulgarian communist regime. Horozov was not an invited speaker but he sat on the first row and listened attentively to all of the presentations. Outside the conference auditorium, the walls of the university hallway were decorated with Horozov's sketches of the camps and prisons. He had aged and seemed somewhat frail, but he still carried bulky bags full of his books. I asked him what he thought of the conference and why he had made the long train journey all the way from Rousse to Sofia: 'I came to bring my sketches, because I know that after we die, no one will be interested, no one will care but at least, now, I can leave something behind, a memory of what it was like...it has to be known'. Unfortunately, the conference was not attended by any students from the university proper or from other educational institutions. The undergraduates of

New Bulgarian University walking past Horozov's drawings had no idea what they represented. Smoking cigarettes outside of the building, I asked them if they would have liked to attend the conference. 'Yes', they confirmed, 'only, they never tell us about these events, we want to know more, but who do we ask?'

Notes

[1] R. Perks and A. Thomson, eds., *The Oral History Reader*, second edition, New York 2007.

[2] See Georgi Gospodinov's 'After the Silence: the Non-Eventfulness of Bulgaria's communism and its personal stories', *The Review of Contemporary Fiction* 28 (Winter 2008).

[3] C. Caruth, *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History*, Baltimore 1996, p. 7.

[4] J. Baudrillard, *Simulacra and Simulation*, Ann Arbor 1994, p. 35.

Eating the Past and Other Tenuous Pursuits

By Mari Firkatian, Associate Professor of History, University of Hartford, and 2010-2011 Fulbright Scholar in Bulgaria

I am working on a book that will include recipes passed down in families of Armenians who became refugees after the genocide of the Armenians perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire. Between 1915 and 1922 centuries' old communities were wiped off the map. The primary goal of the book is to recreate those communities through descriptions of their locations, their geographic landscape, statistics on populations and their occupations, including descriptions of their industries and local agricultural produce, and last but not least their customs and culinary traditions. Using historical and sociological data I aim to recreate what was once a vibrant community obliterated by brutal forces. It seems that I may not be working fast enough.

A recent food fight over what constitutes a dish that is part of a national cuisine, between Armenia and Turkey, alerted me to the fact that my book, including traditional family recipes, may appear too late. There may be no Armenian recipes 'left' to recognize as part of an Armenian gustatory tradition. Turkey has won

this first round on the recipe of Keshkeg or Herisa.

Should I be fearful of being left with little to include in my book regarding the Armenian kitchen? I jest of course but there is a question here that may sooner be the domain of sociologists or cultural historians. Is there such a thing as a national cuisine? Can any culture claim rights to branding a dish as its own unique domain? Is this even possible?

Imagine my shock when a press release concerning a new entry into UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List made public a scandal that led to the 'food fight' [1]. The recipe, for a dish that Armenians consider an integral part of their core cuisine — Harissa, Herisa, or Keshkeg — was attributed to the Turks. It is one of the key recipes that I plan to use in my book and I have gathered substantial and interesting gems of details concerning its preparation. The basic ingredients are a particular type of wheat berry, chicken or turkey meat, butter, and cumin. It is

a labor-intensive dish that is made for special occasions and it resonates with the atmosphere of bygone eras when cooks were called upon to expend what today seem to be enormous energies on food preparation.

The UNESCO website emphasizes that practices must require community involvement in order to be included in the inventory of the intangible cultural heritage. But, if a community has been destroyed and its few survivors carry the cultural memory and transfer that knowledge to their heirs, does that not constitute ‘community involvement’? UNESCO acknowledges that ‘since communities are the ones who create intangible cultural heritage and keep it alive, they have a privileged place in safeguarding it. The communities that practice intangible cultural heritage are better placed than anyone else to identify and safeguard it, and therefore they should be involved when their intangible cultural heritage is to be identified through inventorying’. Yes, we are working on that, we Armenians.

In my opinion labeling a dish as national is the same as calling a particular national group of people racially pure; it is laughable and literally impossible. What is possible, however, is to name a dish, which is a habitual favorite among a population, a part of the national heritage of that particular group. UNESCO’s site goes on to didactically intone: ‘The Convention’s definition of intangible cultural heritages reminds us that it must be recognized by its communities, groups or individuals; without their recognition, nobody else can decide for them that a given expression or practice is their heritage’. Amen, well put; and so why is UNESCO in the business of doing exactly what it claims is in the rightful hands of the community to identify and preserve? And why is it that in reading their elaborate explanations about the hows and whys observed in the preservation process one gets a sense of exigency — as though the 40 days and 40 nights are nigh. A UNESCO representative warns us that ‘There is an element of urgency on the items on the safeguarding list, otherwise it is feared they will disappear’ [2]. Why? Have people stopped eating? Have humans suddenly given up longing for the familiar or the old-worldly of their ancestors?

What constitutes a national cuisine can be as hotly contested an issue as how one defines the nation. Regional culinary distinctions can be traced to traditions in communal living. Practices that have evolved over time and in keeping with immutable factors such as climate, local produce, tastes, and traditions linked to communal rituals all form an integral part of the ‘national cuisine’.

The fact that a supposedly non-partisan international body appointed itself as the judge with an ubiquitous seal of approval for such recipes is incomprehensible. Predictably this decision and others like it have set off veritable firestorms of protest. This time it is the Armenians who are outraged, and justifiably so. UNESCO claims, with an intellectual fig leaf of objectivity, that it aims to ‘foster a wider respect for cultural diversity’ with this process; instead, the Intangible Heritage List has been instrumental in raising tensions among national groups by creating new topics for contention. There is no dearth of contested issues among these two groups — why create yet another?

This clash underscores the nationalistic feelings that a cuisine can evoke. Food tastes are too critically important to national groups to be left uncontested. I was aware of this fact before I undertook the project and, in fact, to circumvent such contentious debates and to preserve the promise of authenticity, I intentionally included a component that involves the recreation of recipes handed down in families to the descendants of those survivors of the genocide who made it to Bulgaria. Hence, the cautious approach to a project regarding practices that are as simple and as essential as eating and drinking. Since one considers one’s family menus as part of the complex mix of the national collage, then logically a recipe handed down in an Armenian family is an Armenian dish.

The foods that are shared by fellow nationals are a part of the self-identification of the group. It is not so much a question of physical territory, not a question of who lives in historic lands, or who occupied or presently occupies the terrain, physical or imaginary, or who lived there first. It is critical, however, to clarify who

maintains specific cultural markers such as specific food preparation as distinctions that define a sense of community and identity. Arguably the keeping of food traditions may be the most critically important aspect of self-identity or sense of national identity. Armenians enjoy specific dishes no matter where they are in the world; so do other cultures.

What is the author of a book on historic Armenian communities and their favorite dishes to do? The circumstance of my Armenian family heritage gave birth to a natural born gourmand, I maintain. It seems to me that I have been aiming for years to create a collection of recipes of the foods that I enjoy tasting and evoke home. My narrative focuses on the ancestry of specific recipes that will be a stamp of authenticity enough to satisfy cooks and ethnographers and historians and nationalists. The final product will include my grandmother's recipes and those of the families whose descendants were kind enough to share their favorites. I have collected recipes from families from the following communities so far: Aghn, Amasia,

Sivas, Mush, Rodosto, Malgara, Bitlis, Van, Shabin Karahisar, and Kharpet.

When my work is finally published I hope that in the meantime there will not have emerged even more ludicrous declarations from UNESCO about Armenian recipes that have been designated as others' on their 'intangible cultural heritage' list of recipes.

Notes

[1] See the following articles regarding the immediate reaction to the declaration by UNESCO: <http://www.eurasianet.org>; http://armenianow.com/news/33816/unesco_world_heritage_harisa; <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/default.aspx?pageid=438&n=turkey8217s-keskek-dish-enters-unesco8217s-list-2011-11-29>.

[2]<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-keskek-dish-enters-unescos-list.aspx?pageID=238&nID=8058&NewsCatID=377>, Rasul Samadov quoted.

ARCS Library Developments

By Todor Petev, Director of the US Office of ARCS

A key feature of ARCS is its specialized library, which contains currently close to 15,000 volumes. At its core the collection is in ancient Balkan history and archaeology with secondary areas covering Balkan culture, history and society of the Middle Ages, the twentieth century, and the contemporary period. The library includes an increasing number of materials that are unique or hard to find elsewhere in the country. Over the past year sixty-six institutional and private donors contributed funds or books to the collection. Among these are over seven hundred volumes from the research collection of the late Prof. Leendert Gerrit Westering which includes texts and studies on Late Antique and Byzantine history, literature, philosophy, and medicine. The collection was donated to ARCS by Prof. John Duffy of Harvard. Thanks to a grant from the America for Bulgaria Foundation, the Center's cataloging librarians Elitsa Popova and Boyana Boyanova have initiated the integration of the ARCS library catalogue in the National Academic Li-

brary Information System, an electronic database that includes the electronic catalogues of several major research libraries in Bulgaria. The library collection, open to the public, attracts increasing number of students and scholars.

Here follows a list of donors to the ARCS Library for the period June 30, 2011 - June 30, 2012:

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Conducting Research at the ARCS Library: Ms. Kalina Yordanova, PhD student in numismatics and epigraphy at the National Archaeological Institute with Museum (BAS), takes advantage of the rich holdings in the ARCS Library.



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The Breakup of Yugoslavia

By James Pardew, US Ambassador to Bulgaria (2002 - 2005), ARCS Trustee

Editor's note: On Monday, October 24, 2011, Ambassador James Pardew delivered the annual Eugene Schuyler lecture at ARCS to an audience of over eighty, including including leaders from the academic, business, and diplomatic community in Sofia. In a riveting, forty-minute presentation, Pardew discussed his years of diplomatic service in the Balkans, with special emphasis on his involvement in developing the Dayton Agreement and the Ohrid Agreement. We are pleased to present here lengthy excerpts from this important lecture.

Introduction

My professional life from 1994 until 2008 — because of timing and unusual circumstances — was dominated by the often tragic, always fascinating events surrounding the disintegration of Yugoslavia as a single nation. Those experiences allowed me to witness first hand some of the most urgent international challenges and some of the most creative diplomacy in Europe in the recent past. Today, I will concentrate on the three specific cases in which I was most directly involved: The Dayton Agreement in Bosnia; the war and subsequent independence of Kosovo; and the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which prevented a war in Macedonia. I also will offer a glimpse of the personalities involved, as well as my views on the consequences and implications of these events for the future.

Communism collapsed in 1989 without major violence in much of Eastern Europe as democratic governments replaced authoritarian ones. In Yugoslavia, however, the process was much bloodier and disruptive than elsewhere in Eastern Europe when national aspirations and frustrations clashed violently with Serbian determination to hold Yugoslavia together. In less than two decades from the time Slovenia and Croatia declared independence in June 1991 until Kosovo declared independence in February 2008, Yugoslavia fractured into seven new countries. Four wars were fought and a fifth was barely avoided. NATO was deployed twice to the region, and international organizations scrambled to adjust to new conditions in creative ways.

Bosnia and Dayton

The war in Bosnia was terrible, not just because over 100,000 people — mostly civilians — were killed and two million people either were displaced or became refugees, but because the war once again generated vicious ethnic hatred in

Europe 50 years after the holocaust. Before Dayton, US Ambassador Richard Holbrooke called the war in Bosnia and the concept of ‘ethnic cleansing’ the greatest failure in Western security policy since WWII.

The attitude of the first Bush Administration toward the war in Bosnia in 1990 was to leave it to the Europeans. In the US view, the Cold War was over and vital US interests were not at stake in this region. The Srebrenica massacre in the spring of 1995 changed US policy. Richard Holbrooke, primarily on the strength of his own conviction, in 1995 convinced President Clinton that after Srebrenica, the US could not avoid engagement in Bosnia. President Clinton then appointed Holbrooke as the US negotiator to work with the Contact Group to find a peaceful settlement in the summer of that year.

What followed was a diplomatic shuttle between Belgrade, Sarajevo, Zagreb, and European capitals from August to November 1995. In November, the talks moved to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio where continuous negotiations produced an agreement. The Dayton Agreement was officially signed in Paris on 13 December 1995. The guns around Sarajevo fell silent and NATO, including a large contingent of about 20,000 US Army troops, deployed to Bosnia as part of NATO IFOR, later SFOR.

The Dayton Agreement

The Dayton Agreement has many critics today, and Holbrooke, if he were still with us, would be quick to point out its flaws. Dayton was, first and foremost, a peace agreement to end war and suffering. The most glaring problems with the agreement are the weakness of the national government and the creation of two strong ethnic entities—the Federation and the Republica Srpska. Today, Bosnia remains dysfunctional, trapped in a zero-sum game of ethnic political competition that damages the entire country.

Ambassador Pardew (standing) addresses the audience. Seated in the front row (left) is current US Ambassador to Bulgaria, James Warlick.



Bosnia will remain behind until these destructive ethnic political forces are rejected, Bosnians begin to work together to create a real nation, and Belgrade stops interfering in the internal affairs of Bosnia.

History and diplomacy are about real people, so I offer a flavor of the people involved in the Dayton peace process. Some of them rival characters from Shakespeare or from a Greek drama.

I acknowledge at the outset that I am a great admirer of Richard Holbrooke. I consider him a giant of American diplomacy. He was a bigger than life personality who felt that the United States had a national moral responsibility to bring an end to the war in Bosnia. Holbrooke was tireless, determined, clever, practical, and could be very manipulative to get the outcome he wanted. He was very controversial to many but held in the highest regard by others. I respected him because he was practical, but he also had a strong moral core and a powerful sense of duty — of right and wrong. His death last year, again working on the most difficult diplomatic issue facing the United States today, Pakistan and Afghanistan, was a huge loss to American diplomacy.

His primary protagonist in these negotiations was Slobodan Milosevic. Milosevic was a communist party functionary who also was a cunning opportunist. He saw the end of communism fast approaching and quickly seized upon Serbian nationalism as the means to achieve and maintain political power in Serbia. By 1995, Milosevic wanted to end the war in Bosnia because Serbia was isolated and international economic sanctions were destroying the Serbian economy. I also think that he was convinced that he could influence the negotiations so as to avoid personal responsibility for what happened in Bosnia in order to restore some dignity to his own personal stature.

Milosevic was clever and manipulative. In person, he could be charming and gracious, in his own way. In dealing with him, however, you could never forget that you were dealing with a ruthless tyrant. He was a man who had caused great harm and suffering to so many people, and he was a man looking for a way out of the situation he had created, without accepting responsibility or acknowledging his involvement in the disaster in Bosnia.

Watching Holbrooke and Milosevic negotiate was fascinating — like watching the mongoose and the cobra. It is unfortunate that Milosevic died in The Hague before the International

Criminal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) could find him guilty of crimes against humanity and genocide.

I also came to know very well Alia Izetbegovic, the leader of the Muslim community in Bosnia. President Izetbegovic was an unpretentious man who lived a modest life. He also was tough and totally dedicated to his people, his faith, and his cause. A man of advanced age, Izetbegovic stayed in Sarajevo through cold, dark winters, enduring constant shelling with his people throughout the war. At the signing ceremony at Dayton, President Izetbegovic described the agreement as a 'bitter peace' because it did not bring justice along with the end to violence. We grudgingly accepted Dayton, however, as the best outcome at the time.

The last interesting personalities related to Dayton were the Pale Serbs from Bosnia. Included within this coterie were Radovan Karadzic, Momcilo Krajisnik, Biliana Plavsic, and Ratko Mladic, all of whom have faced justice before The Hague Tribunal. This group was important to Milosevic because he could use them to create the fiction that these leaders were beyond his control and that they, not him or Belgrade, were behind the atrocities in Bosnia. Having spent much time with these people, I am convinced that Milosevic had complete control of the Bosnian Serbs. At Dayton, they had no real idea of the details of the negotiations until hours before signing.

Kosovo

Beginning in 1988, Milosevic exploited the history of Kosovo as a symbol of Serbian nationalism in his rise to power. Relations between Belgrade and the Albanians in Kosovo deteriorated steadily after 1988 as Serbia tightened its grip on the area. Serbian police and army repression of the Albanian population escalated throughout the 1990s. In the spring of 1998, Milosevic ordered a 'counter-offensive' in Kosovo in response to political and military pressure for independence by the Kosovo Liberation Army. I

saw Serbian police and military repression firsthand in Kosovo, and it was brutal.

I had a good personal relationship with Milosevic, and I met privately with him twice in Belgrade to discuss Kosovo before the NATO air campaign began in March 1999. In the first meeting in December 1998, I failed to convince Milosevic to refrain from violence against civilians in Kosovo and to cooperate with the international community.

Washington sent me back to Belgrade to see Milosevic after the Racak massacre in January 1999 to convince him to withdraw his forces from Kosovo, to end the repression, and to seek a political accommodation with the Albanians by restoring autonomy to the area. In this meeting, the last time I spoke with Milosevic, he was angry, inflexible, and resigned to war with NATO over Kosovo. After our meeting, I was convinced that the upcoming Rambouillet negotiations had no hope of success and that war with Serbia over Kosovo was inevitable. In March 1999, the NATO air campaign began in Kosovo and Serbia, and 78 days later, Belgrade agreed to terms with the international community.

The Ohrid Agreement

By the summer of 2001, UNMIK and NATO/KFOR had stabilized Kosovo when civil war suddenly and surprisingly seemed imminent in Macedonia. From an international perspective, active diplomatic engagement by the United States and Europe was required; so when President Trajkovski requested dedicated international diplomats to help find a solution to a rapidly deteriorating security situation, the international response was immediate. I was appointed the US representative to the joint team. Francois Leotard of France arrived as the EU representative. After six weeks of passionate, difficult negotiations involving many parties with differing views and interests, the agreement was signed in Skopje on August 13.

The Ohrid Agreement has several important characteristics: 1. at the most basic level, it is a peace settlement that prevented a potentially disastrous fifth war in the Balkans in 10 years; 2. the Agreement also is a detailed declaration of the equal rights of citizens that respects the cultural identity of minorities within the State. In

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this regard, the Agreement separates religions from the State and makes them equal before the law; 3. Ohrid avoids territorial division as a solution to resolve ethnic problems. In fact, the Agreement contains a clear and ringing declaration that ‘there are no territorial solutions to ethnic issues’; 4. Ohrid also is a political formula for power sharing between major ethnic groups in Macedonia and between the central government and local governments throughout the country. Decentralization of power to municipalities is a valuable principle of the Agreement.

The Ohrid Framework Agreement has accomplished its task. Macedonia is at peace; a democratic political system is functioning; the Albanian minority has sufficient political power to address the concerns of its citizens in the existing democratic structure; and the municipalities have assumed their new responsibilities. Despite its success, the Ohrid Agreement remains controversial among many ethnic Macedonian leaders who have never fully embraced it as a major Macedonian achievement.

Conclusion

In looking back over at the international effort to restore peace and stability to Southeast Europe, two principles I believe rightly dominated the international effort: first, the international community consistently avoided changing national boundaries to resolve ethnic disputes. Instead, nationality was defined by residence and not by ethnic or religious identity. The idea that ethnic disputes could be solved by partitioning off certain ethnic groups was discarded as an acceptable policy; second, international solutions sought to recognize cultural identity without defining individual rights according to ethnic identity. The principles of universal humanitarian rights and the principles of democracy and rule of law were applied to each individual situation.

In nearly two decades of engagement in this region, I have come to several personal conclusions about ethnic conflicts:

I am convinced that diversity is a fact of life which cannot be avoided in modern societies.

Map of the former Yugoslavia. Note that this map does not indicate the political independence of Kosovo. This map is based on UN map number 3689, rev. 12 June 2007.

Image source: http://bar.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Former_Yugoslavia_Map.png (accessed May 23, 2012).



Democratic nations must create conditions in which diverse groups and individuals can retain their respective identity while cooperating for the common good if the society is to develop and prosper. Mono-ethnic societies of superior and inferior groups are no longer possible today if nations are to reach their full potential.

Second, ethnic division is not compatible with real democracy. Yet, the temptation of political leaders to use cultural, religious and ethnic fears and division to pursue and retain political power is very appealing. Strong, enlightened leaders are required to avoid these temptations.

Once ethnic wars are ignited, restoring cooperative democratic political structures is extremely difficult. More often, they lead to a bitter and destructive future for the participants.

Countries that avoid ethnic conflicts have the best near term hope to develop effective democracies, economic progress and integration into the Western mainstream. Those who remain obsessed with division easily fall behind.

Finally, even though Balkan Muslims may have lived in the region for hundreds of years, they are often viewed as stereotypes, considered to be hostile toward Europe and democratic institutions or feared as centers of extremism. I have never found that to be true in my experiences in Bosnia, Kosovo or Macedonia where I worked very closely with Muslim communities. In my experience, they see themselves as Europeans, and they are not extreme in their religious views. They are largely secular in outlook. Extreme forms of Islam have not made inroads in these areas despite serious attempts to do so. In my view, a policy of inclusion of the Muslim communities in every level of society — in education, government, police, bureaucracy, military, business — is the best way to insure a stable political system in the future.

The Balkan wars and political disruptions of the 1990s primarily were limited to Yugoslavia, although other countries were seriously affected by these events. Fortunately, however, important nations of the region — Bulgaria among

them — chose not to engage directly in the conflicts in ways which were destructive to the international stability effort. They also resisted the temptation to divide local ethnic groups for domestic political gain. Had they chosen a different path, the situation today might be different for them and for the region.

So much has been accomplished in Southeast Europe since 1990. Much of the region continues to recover from 50 years of communism and isolation. Most nations are now members of NATO and the EU or aspire to be members as soon as possible. Wars have been limited or prevented as Yugoslavia disintegrated, and seven new countries now are engaged in finding their way in the world. There are new challenges: corruption, economic struggles, and weak leaders and institutions in many cases. However, the current wave of civilization sweeping over this area is not one of conquest and repression, but democracy and freedom to find ones way into a future decided by the people of the region.

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Beyond Thrace: Recent Fieldwork in Bulgaria. A Response

By Zosia Archibald, University of Liverpool

Editor's note: Former ARCS Director Denver Graninger organized a panel of papers for presentation at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) on the topic of 'Beyond Thrace: Recent Fieldwork in Bulgaria'. Here follows a list of the participants, their institutional affiliations, and the titles of their papers:

Introduction: Denver Graninger, American Research Center in Sofia

David Strait, SUNY-Albany, 'The Balkan Valley Project: Results of surveys for Paleolithic cave sites in the Tundzha Valley'

Bogdan Athanassov, New Bulgarian University, 'The Middle Strouma Valley Archaeological Survey: Settlement Patterns in the eastern Balkan Peninsula in late Prehistory (Neolithic - Late Bronze Age)'

Adela Sobotkova, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Shawn Ross, University of New South Wales, 'Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project 2009-2010: A diachronic survey campaign in Bulgaria'

Margarit Damyanov, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 'Two Decades of Archaeological Research in Apollonia on the Black Sea (Sozopol, Bulgaria): The Classical necropolis and the temenos'

Andrew Poulter, University of Nottingham, 'From Roman city to late Roman fortress, and from the countryside to early Byzantine hill-top "settlements": twenty-five years of research in north-central Bulgaria'

Discussant: Zosia Archibald, University of Liverpool

Athanassov and Damyanov were able to participate thanks to a generous grant from the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

We are pleased to present below Archibald's concluding remarks.

Denver Graninger has referred, in his introduction, to the kinds of changes that have taken place in the archaeology of Thrace during the last decade. After a period of political change and institutional uncertainty, during the 1990s, the scope of archaeological investigation in Bulgaria has begun to change in important and fundamental ways. There is a long history of international collaboration on Bulgarian sites, which goes back to the 1960s. What we are seeing at the present time is a new phase of collaborative research, which builds on the field studies of the 1970s and 1980s, through the pioneering Archaeological Map of Bulgaria, compiled in the early 1990s.

The new initiatives presented by our speakers illustrate the principal characteristics that distinguish current research from past projects.

The first of these is the effective use of interdisciplinary techniques in order to generate new data. We are beginning to see how current approaches are exploring the earliest periods of prehistory. How should we imagine the disper-

sal of hominins and the first anatomically modern humans?

David Strait's team has succeeded in expanding the range of cave sites with evidence of Late Pleistocene — Upper Palaeolithic — sites that offer some evidence of hominid activity (Arkata Rock Shelter), and Middle Palaeolithic traces at Magura.

How far does this research help us to understand the dispersal of early hominins / hominids? The aspirations of the project team are indeed ambitious. The expansion of specialist involvement in the exploration of hominin and hominid activity during the Pleistocene offers real opportunities to enhance the foundations for a systematic understanding of hominid dispersal patterns between western Asia and south eastern Europe. Detailed examination of the new data, alongside published analyses from Bacho Kiro, Kozarnika, and Temnata Dupka offer the initial steps in this direction.

Interdisciplinary approaches are represented in further ways in the projects of the two presenta-



Zosia Archibald, School of Archaeology, Classics, and Egyptology, University of Liverpool, and Director of British Archaeological Expedition to Pistiros (Vetren, Bulgaria) addresses the audience of the panel 'Beyond Thrace: Recent Fieldwork in Bulgaria' at the Annual Meeting of AIA, Philadelphia, PA, January 2012.

tions that followed David Strait's. Bogdan Atanassov's paper reflects a self-conscious awareness of the deteriorating opportunities for investigation just as the technical and scientific potential for field research is improving. The geological and geomorphological component of research in the Struma / Strymon Valley therefore represents an inextricable part of the archaeological project.

Atanassov's thoughtful and imaginative reflections on the origins of agriculture in the lower and middle Struma valley provide us with a significant new element in the debate about the transition to agriculture in southern Europe. Scholars are still uncertain about how to imagine human interactions in the Aegean area in Mesolithic times. We are beginning to appreciate the importance of marine and maritime transport in the Mesolithic and early Neolithic. This new appreciation of the different trajectories available to pioneering groups with knowledge of farming methods may explain why the transition to agriculture has a multiple character, with localised features, rather than sharing the features of a 'wave of advance' model.

The environmental data gathered in the course of the Tundja Valley Survey, the subject of our third presentation, offers a different explanation for the comparatively late emergence of the transition to agriculture in eastern Thrace, namely the relative aridity of the region in the early Holocene. How might we characterise the emerging settlement patterns that the Tundja

Valley Survey has revealed? The sandy areas on the western and eastern banks of the River Tundja lie outside the areas that have traditionally been identified with emerging social complexity and state formation. The assumption of the project members seems to be that the emergence of social complexity is connected with visible site hierarchies. In principle this is a common and reasonable assumption. But it is also worth considering the extent to which local pastoral ecologies may have affected the patterns of settlement identified. If much of the evidence for settlement appears ephemeral, is this connected to particular strategies of land use? The Tundja Valley Project has identified different settlement patterns in the Valley of the Roses, west of the excavated city of Seuthopolis, and here the existence of settlement hierarchy, with attendant ideas about social complexity, have been affirmed. So perhaps something rather different was going on in the Yambol area.

Margarit Damyanov has made modest claims about his presentation on the excavations at Apollonia Pontica. What is particularly valuable in his account is the clear synthesis of material, from a variety of excavated projects, over half a century. One of the interesting questions that research at Apollonia can answer concerns the social and political evolution of the community. Damyanov has outlined the contrast between the conscious display of wealth in the late archaic period, superseded by a more consciously egalitarian approach in the second half of the

fourth century BC, even though many burials in the second half of the fifth century continued to display a degree of pretension consistent with quite a well off community. There may indeed be a political explanation, as he suggests. There may also be another dimension, to which Damyanov has alluded, namely the role of the metals trade in Apollonia's wealth, particularly, though not perhaps exclusively, copper from the nearby deposits in the Meden Rid.

Andrew Poulter has been investigating late Roman and post Antique sites in and around Nicopolis ad Istrum and northwards, in the direction of the Danube Foreland, for the last two

and a half decades. He has identified significant changes in the local economy, which mark major changes in the habits and lifestyles of communities north of the Stara Planina. Some of these were undoubtedly inspired by military strategies, which are particularly apparent in the post-Antique phases of Dobri Dyal. We look forward to more information about the civilian population too.

I have emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary work in all the projects included in today's presentations. I would also like to pay tribute to the significant contribution made by these projects to the systematic mapping of the landscape and anthropogenic activities within it. Only those familiar with the restrictions imposed on researchers as recently as a decade ago, will appreciate just how important these maps are.

The range of projects that we have heard about today illustrates the potential for research in the region. The emphasis on environmental and landscape evidence redresses some of the principal gaps in the research base. Andrew Poulter has alluded to some of the outstanding questions of the post Antique period. Other contributors have alluded to the social questions relating to earlier periods, and it is perhaps the social history of the region that still poses significant challenges to future investigations.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the investment and support in Bulgarian archaeology and history by the American Research Center in Sofia, which has opened up a new and very exciting phase of cultural studies, and continues to offer a key resource at a time of financial constraint. Please join me in expressing our joint appreciation of the work of the ARCS, of its director, Denver Graninger, and members of the Managing Committee.

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ARCS Archaeological and Site Preservation Projects, 2010-2011: Current Results and Public Outreach

By Emil Nankov, Archaeology Program Officer, American Research Center in Sofia

The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) is proud to share with our readers the continuing success of the archaeology programs, developed in collaboration with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and funded with the generous support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation. Projects are evaluated on an annual basis by an external committee of specialists in field archaeology and conservation techniques. We are happy to witness the outstanding impact that these programs have already produced in terms of promoting international collaboration in Bulgarian archaeology and preservation of its rich cultural heritage.

Heavily advertised through public presentations by the staff of ARCS and the Field Museum, and on the internet, including a posting on the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, our programs have been quickly recognized as providing a vital opportunity for launching in-

novative fieldwork projects and for implementing visionary site preservation and museum enhancement initiatives.

2011 saw the launch of a new program, the **Collaborative High-Risk Anthropological and Archaeological Research Program** (HRAR), which promotes international collaboration between scholars from Bulgaria and the Balkans with those from the US, and other nations in Western Europe. The intent of this program is to encourage scholars to assess the feasibility of an archaeological research project, and to encourage the use of innovative research methods. Alongside HRAR, we continue to receive a steady flow of applications for the programs started in late 2009: the **International Collaborative Archaeological and Bioarchaeological Research Program** (ICAB), which funds archaeological and bioarchaeological research, including fieldwork, museum and laboratory research, requires collabo-



Figure 1: The reception at ARCS following the presentations on Nicopolis ad Istrum and Deultum on November 21, 2011.

Figure 2: The bronze head and a hand of the Roman emperor Septimius Severus on display in the town of Sredets.



ration between North American and Bulgarian scholars. The **Site Preservation, Collections, and Museum Enhancement Program** (SPCME) has become the most attractive option for the archaeological community in Bulgaria. In 2011, ARCS received more than triple the number of SPCME applications received in the previous year. The program targets archaeological sites and museum collections in Bulgaria suffering from long periods of neglect and in dire need of restoration. It also helps to identify potential areas for the future development of cultural tourism in Bulgaria.

In an attempt to make the results of the program more widely known to the general public and the professional community, ARCS encourages press releases and public events devoted to each particular project. In November 2011, ARCS invited the directors of the recently concluded SPCME projects at Nicopolis ad Istrum and Deultum, Associate Professor Pavlina Vladkova and Dr. Krassimira Kostova, to publicly present the results of their site preservation work at ARCS. The event was a great

success and attracted a large audience of over 30 colleagues from Sofia and beyond (Figure 1).

We hope to have marked deservedly not only the completion of very successful projects, but also to have laid the foundations of a new ARCS tradition for presenting the results of archaeological site preservation projects in Bulgaria.

In the course of August 2010 - December 2011, several press conferences were organized by the directors of the Nicopolis and Deultum projects, in Veliko Tarnovo and Sredets. The events received wide coverage in both local and national media outlets. Some media reports on the current progress of the new 2011 SPCME projects at Kazanlak and Cherven, released by the project directors, continue that tradition.

A week-long temporary display of all objects restored as part of the SPCME project, including the head from a bronze statue of the Roman emperor Septimius Severus (Figure 2), was set up in Sredets in December, 2011.

The grand opening was attended by a multitude of local people, including the mayor of Sredets, who swarmed in front of the cases filled with splendid objects, eager to glimpse at their long-forgotten past brought to light by the spade in the 1980s (Figure 3).

Asked to comment on the artistic qualities of the bronze head of Severus, the famous Bulgarian sculptor, Georgi Chapkanov, remarked: ‘Oh, he is so beautiful! This is a very lively and powerful portrait of a historical figure; a real discovery, an artistic achievement of a big master. The work is no doubt a testimony to the high level of ancient bronze work. Such an artistic and archaeological artifact bestows a great honor to the collection of every museum in Bulgaria’.

It is my great pleasure to present progress reports on all archaeological projects funded by ARCS grants in 2010 and 2011.

Balkan Valley Project Phase II: Survey of the Tundja Valley. ICAB, funded 2010.

Prof. David Strait, CUNY Albany, and Prof. Stefanka Ivanova, National Institute of Archae-

ology with Museum-Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, report:

The objective of the project is to identify archaeological and paleontological/zooarchaeological sites preserving evidence of Pleistocene human occupations and contemporaneous vertebrate communities. It is already known from archaeological sites that hominins occupied Bulgaria throughout much of the Pleistocene, and that geological conditions in the country are favorable to fossil preservation (as indicated by several rich Plio-Pleistocene paleontological/zooarchaeological sites). However, ours is the first attempt in the country to collect and integrate diverse types of data from across a targeted landscape with the aim of testing hypotheses about hominin and mammalian biogeography. Our prior research has identified the presence of Pleistocene humans in the Strandja region. We surveyed the Tundja River Valley for human occupations, and found two sites that may be worth further investigation. However, in the short term, we judged Magura Cave to be more promising. Although Magura is farther to the north and West, it is also within the Danube River Valley Corridor which prior research has shown may be an important dis-



Figure 3: The people of Sredets in a moment of reflection in front of Septimius Severus, December 14, 2011.

Figure 4: Excavation at Magura Cave, near the village of Rabisha in northwest Bulgaria.



persal pathway for fauna and humans. Thus, following the Tundja Survey, we conducted formal excavations in Magura (Figure 4).

The project identified sites in the Tundja Valley suitable for further study; recovered paleolithic artifacts from in situ sediments in Magura Cave; identified human fossils from Magura Cave that warrant further study; and further documented the activities of Pleistocene humans in Bulgaria. We hope to continue surveying for and excavating paleolithic localities throughout Bulgaria, and we hope to return to Magura Cave. The discovery of humans in museum collections was exciting and unexpected. If radiocarbon dating confirms that they are Pleistocene, and if one is neanderthal, the potential exists for extracting ancient DNA from neanderthals and modern humans from the same cave, which has never before been done. Such a possibility far exceeds the expectations of the original project.

Dodoparon Excavations and Palaeoecological Sampling undertaken during Fall 2010 season of Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project /TRAP/. ICAB, funded 2010.

Adela Sobotkova and Chris Ratten, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Stefan Bakardzhiev, Regional Historical Museum-Yambol, report:

The project in Yambol region funded by the ARCIS is directed towards preliminary investigation of the fortified site of Dodoparon, suburban archaeological field survey and remote sensing in its hinterland, and environmental sampling and laboratory analysis of samples from the wider region. The tasks planned included site clearance, geodetic survey and mapping of Dodoparon, followed by limited trial excavations, with the goal of determining the outlines of chronology and function at the site, and especially laying the foundation for a responsible multi-year excavation campaign. The aims of the field survey were to contextualize this urban site in the region, explore the economic foundations underpinning this and other centers, and provide a picture of the evolving ancient rural landscape. The palaeoecological research focused on sampling of lake sediments across Bulgaria for use as control samples to calibrate current data (from sites in the Yambol and Kazanluk districts) about ancient climate and vegetation.

Palaeoecological fieldwork in 2010 concentrated on obtaining short cores of superficial sediment ("top cores") and other samples of surface sediment from various natural lakes and wetlands in Bulgaria. Nine top cores and 4 surface samples were collected in April, mostly in the eastern part of Bulgaria and covering a



Figure 5: Simon Connor and Todor Valchev taking samples from Bezbog Lake in the Pirin mountains.

large spatial area. In August-September, an additional 9 top cores were collected from lakes and wetlands throughout western Bulgaria. AMS radiocarbon dates were obtained for the best 13 of these short cores, all of which were sampled at high resolution (1-2 cm). Pollen analysis of 5 of the cores (Bezbog in the Pirin Mts, Lebed in the Rhodopes, Obel in SW Bulgaria, and Shabla and Durankulak in NE Bulgaria) has been completed and additional cores from other sites are yet to be analysed (Figure 5). The pollen diagrams so far indicate recent land-use changes, including the abandonment of tobacco crops in some areas and the widespread expansion of shrubby vegetation during the 20th century.

These pollen records allow reconstruction of past climatic and environmental conditions using two approaches: 1) by calibration of surface sediments to climatic and environmental variables across the length and breadth of Bulgaria; 2) identification of short-term palynological responses to climatic changes in the individual sediment cores from different sites. A combination of both approaches will be applied to the new Lateglacial-Holocene pollen record from the Straldzha Mire, providing a quantitative reconstruction of past climate and vegetation cover.

Thanks also to the ARCS grant, the chronology of the Straldzha Mire record has been improved. Radiocarbon dating of sediments from this site has been hampered by the presence of 'dead' carbon, which gives erroneously old radiocarbon ages. New dating samples have been subjected to a pre-treatment process that should remove most of these contaminants and result in a more robust and credible chronology for this important palaeoecological record.

Results of paleo-ecological research were presented in a poster session at the 18th International Quaternary Association (INQUA) Congress in Bern, Switzerland, on the 25th of July 2011. The poster session was entitled "From the Western Mediterranean to the Caspian Sea: A corridor of palaeoenvironmental change and human response during the last 30.000 years" and attracted several hundred of the thousands of participants. The poster — "Vegetation of the Thracian Plain before, during, and after the adoption of agriculture" — was displayed for the entire day. The feedback received while the poster was on display indicated that most members of the Quaternary community were excited by the results and were keenly anticipating their publication. One participant expressed the desire to start a collaboration that combines pollen records and macrofossils, to better recon-

struct the past vegetation and subsistence strategies in prehistoric Bulgaria, an idea that is currently being followed up.

Rock-cut Sanctuaries in the eastern Rhodope Mountains: The Gloukhite Kamani Cult Complex. ICAB, funded 2011.

Prof. Lynn Roller, University of California, Davis, and Dr. Georgi Nekhrizov, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum-Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, report:

This project is an investigation of the site of Gloukhite Kamani ('Deaf Stones'), near the town of Lyubimets in southeastern Bulgaria. The site has a variety of rock carvings, including a large number of niches carved into a cliff face, a large cistern on a mountain peak with a series of steps leading up to it, and an artificially enlarged cave with a domed ceiling. Preliminary investigation conducted in 2008, 2009, and 2010 by Dr. G. Nekhrizov of the National Archaeological Institute and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, have revealed evidence for Thracian occupation from the late second millennium through the first millennium BCE, and a subsequent Byzantine Christian settlement of the 5th and 6th centuries CE. The current proposal aims to expand on these investigations on two fronts: 1) to continue the

excavation of the Early Iron Age and Thracian habitation levels; and 2) to conduct more extensive field surveys of the immediate region, including an intensive recording of rock-cut monuments.

Gloukhite Kamuni (the name means "Deaf Stones") is located above the village of Malko Gradishte, near Lyubimets, on the slope of the Rhodope Mountains in southeastern Bulgaria. This area is rich in archaeological sites where the natural rock of the terrain has been shaped by human use into distinctive formations such as niches, water channels, and symbols carved into the rock, apparently for purposes of religious cult (Figure 6). It has long been assumed that these features were made by the Thracians, the dominant ethnic group of southeastern Europe in antiquity. Most sites with similar rock-cut features, though, are in isolated and barren places with little evidence for human habitation, making it difficult to test this assumption or determine the chronology and function of the rock carvings. Gloukhite Kamuni was chosen as the place for archaeological investigation because the site has both a rich series of rock-cut cult features and evidence for human occupation. Previous work at the site had revealed the presence of Thracian Iron Age pottery and an early Christian church. In August and September 2011 a joint Bulgarian-

Figure 6: Rock with a cluster of niches at Gloukhite Kamani.



American team, funded by a grant from ARCS and led by Dr. Georgi Nehrizov of the National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and Professor Lynn Roller of the University of California, Davis, undertook a more extensive research effort at the site. Our goal was twofold: to excavate the rich layers of occupation deposits and also to locate and record as many examples of rock-cut features in the area as possible. The excavation team, led by Dr. Nehrizov, uncovered evidence for three distinct periods: the Chalcolithic, the Early Iron Age (ca. 1200-800 BCE), and the early medieval periods. The Early Iron Age levels, that is, those levels that could be associated with Thracians, were the most extensive. Here were found numerous examples of miniature clay vessels and animal figurines, animal bones, and traces of temporary hearths. Such evidence suggests the existence of feasting accompanied by votive offerings, indicating that the site was indeed a cult center. The results of the survey team, led by Lynn Roller, Maya Vasileva of New Bulgarian University, and Nadezhda Kechova, a graduate student at NIAM-BAS, were equally valuable. The survey project faced a challenging environment working in the densely forested region of the Rhodopes, since this made walking difficult and also obscured the view of the rock-cut features. Nonetheless, the survey located more than three hundred examples of rock-cut features, primarily cult niches. Many of these were carved onto large panels above natural rock recesses, suggesting that such areas were gathering places for cult activities. A follow-up survey in November located additional cult features near neighboring villages. We are still in the process of analyzing our data from the summer and fall work but overall our results provide valuable evidence for the chronology and function of a Thracian cult site. We look forward to returning to Gloukhite Kamuni and continuing our research.

Analyzing the Cutting Edge: Stylistic and Functional Study of Lithic and Bronze Tools from Later Prehistory of the Eastern Balkans. ICAB, funded 2011.

Prof. Marvin Kay, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and Prof. Ivan Gatsov, New Bulgarian University, report:

The Cutting Edge project is an international, interdisciplinary study of lithic tools from museums in Bulgaria and builds from similar research in Romania and the Levant. The proposed investigation considers the economic and social function of lithic artifacts in the Chalcolithic (Karanovo V and Gumelnița-Karanovo VI-Varna cultures) and Bronze Age. Despite what now seems to be a linear technological shift away from stone technology and its replacement by copper and bronze metallurgy, the reality is far more subtle and complex. Lithic prismatic blade technology continues throughout the Chalcolithic and, if only selectively, the Bronze Age in the lower Danube River valley region of Bulgaria and Romania. There are two crucial steps to this project. Step 1 is to develop a geographic model of flint sources in relation to the prehistoric archaeology. We must identify and attempt to differentiate among Chalcolithic and Bronze Age flint sources commonly found in the archaeological investigations. This requires petrographic characterization of flint sources from known locations in the region and in comparison to the artifacts. Step 2 is to refine the Pietrele model of early agriculture prismatic blade technology and extend it from the Chalcolithic to the Bronze Age, and employs both morphological assessments of tool form and microscopic use-wear analysis of tool function. Our focus on sickles and axes sheds light on the transition from lithic to metal tools, one of the main desiderata in Balkan prehistory, and places it in its proper social setting of agriculture village economies. Thus, in examining historical processes of technological change, the research ob-

'We are happy to witness the outstanding impact that these programs have already produced in terms of promoting international collaboration in Bulgarian archaeology and preservation of its rich cultural heritage...Our programs have been quickly recognized as providing a vital opportunity for launching innovative fieldwork projects and for implementing visionary site preservation and museum enhancement initiatives'.

Figure 7: Prof. Ivan Gatsov (New Bulgarian University) examining flint blades in the Archaeological Museum of Varna, August 2011.



jectives are two-fold: first, to assess continuity between the Chalcolithic and Bronze Age due to similarities of agriculture village life; and second, to delineate technological disparities whenever the engineering design of bronze tools actually conveyed either greater tool efficiency or a substantial lowering of tool maintenance costs.

The major result has been to initiate research at Varna (Figure 7). This effort provides a counterpoint to the Pietrele investigations, and a way to further assess class distinctions within the necropolis. A pragmatic result has been to try whenever practical to consolidate Bulgarian museum collections for microscopic use-wear and technological assessments at New Bulgarian University. This will expedite these analyses at the lowest possible cost and will allow us to expand our efforts into Anatolia to the key site of Barçın Hüyük. So the major changes in project scope we anticipate would be the addition of Barçın Hüyük to our list of key collections, and an expanded program at Varna. The latter will likely require a larger scope than our present project allows. We anticipate seeking further funding for the Varna studies. The next stage of the project, set for spring 2012, will be to investigate the several Bulgarian museum collections

specified in our original grant proposal. Following this, we anticipate returning to Varna, an additional trip to Barçın Hüyük, and to Pietrele next summer.

Prehistoric Flint Sourcing in NW Bulgaria and NE Serbia: Field Survey and Laboratory Analyses. HRAR, funded 2011.

Prof. Dušan Borić, Cardiff School of History and Archaeology at Cardiff University, and Associate Professor Maria Gurova, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, report:

The project focuses on the identification of flint sources, used by prehistoric communities in the areas of northwest Bulgaria and northeast Serbia, by means of field survey and archaeometric analyses (LA-ICP-MS analyses). The aim of this research will be to reconstruct networks of acquisition of flint raw material along the Danube's southern bank and in its immediate hinterland within the study area throughout early prehistory. In particular this research will address the question of diachronic changes from the Palaeolithic to the end of the Neolithic period in the study region with regard to the availability of certain types of raw material

used by prehistoric populations. The chosen study area in the Danube Gorges is the only place in the eastern and central Balkans where one could research diachronic changes due to the existence of sites dated from the Upper Palaeolithic through the Neolithic within the same general area. On the other hand, NW Bulgaria is the most promising place for flint raw material prospecting. After this initial pilot research phase, we expect that this project will generate enough information in order to expand the research in the future to the northern bank of the Danube, i.e. the areas of present-day southwest Romania as well as to other regions in Bulgaria.

Within the current reporting period (14/06/2011 – 12/12/2011) several of the planned activities were achieved: (1) fieldwork activities in locating flint sources, recording their coordinates and collecting samples (Figure 8) encompassed both territories in NW Bulgaria and NE Serbia from 19/06/2011 to 01/08/2011; (2) collecting of archaeological samples by visiting local museums in both Bulgaria and Serbia and this activity will continue into 2012; (3) describing and selecting collected material along with preparing of petrographic thin sections was initiated and these activities will continue into 2012.

During fieldwork, samples were collected in Pleven, Vratsa, Vidin, and Montana districts (45 samples from 35 locations) in Bulgaria and in Donji Milanovac, Kučevo, Majdanpek, Kladovo, Bor, and Niš districts in Serbia (40 samples from 15 locations). Additional, 12 samples were collected from Neolithic sites in Bulgaria and 43 archaeological samples were collected from Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic sites in Serbia. So far, 20 thin sections were made on the collected flint samples from the territory of Bulgaria and 20 thin sections were made on both sedimentological and archaeological flint samples from Serbia. Also, a database of GPS points and geographic mapping was done for the territory covered in Bulgaria.

Initially, it was planned to make only LA-ICP-MS analyses but it became increasingly obvious that petrographic analyses are also needed in order to properly evaluate and match sedimentological and archaeological samples of collected flint. On the basis of the evaluations made in the previous year, it is estimated that some additional fieldwork may be necessary in order to better contextualize initially collected material.

Conservation and Protection of Monuments and Signatures in the Town of the of the Victory Nicopolis ad Istrum. SPCME, funded 2010.

Dr. Pavlina Vladkova, Regional Historical Museum of Veliko Tarnovo, reports:

The main goals of the project are: (1) to ensure the physical protection of the epigraphy and



Figure 8: Maria Gurova (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) and Maciej Pawlikowski (Krakow) survey the area around Muselievo, northern Bulgaria, June 2011.

Figure 9: The new home for the inscriptions in the forum of Nicopolis ad Istrum.



gravestone monuments in the Roman city; (2) to build a series of roofing structures that will help to preserve a variety of ancient features including: a well dating to the Roman period; a built channel that passes through the central part of the forum; and a pedestal for an equestrian statue of an emperor; (3) to popularize the above-mentioned activities in English and Bulgarian and to facilitate the visits of guests to the site through signs, information-boards, and model graphics. Through the promotion activities, especially the display of new road signs and information boards on site, the archaeological reserve ‘Nicopolis ad Istrum’ became better known among the public and thus the numbers of the visitors increased. In 2011, Nicopolis was visited by 3050 tourists, of whom 1350 were foreign and 1700 were Bulgarian. The successful progress of this project facilitated applications for other projects related to restoration and conservation works at the site. Advertising and souvenir materials contributed to the efficient representation of Nicopolis ad Istrum to tour operators, on the tourist markets nationwide and abroad, and to the settlement of long-term contracts.

The roofing constructions over the bouleterion (Figure 9), the equestrian statue, the built channel, and the two wells, as well as individual pro-

TECTIVE covers for several inscriptions, ensure a more permanent protection from the elements. An authorized commission inspected the work and has issued an official protocol testifying to its quality and reliability. For visitors, the site is now both more accessible, due to the regular cleaning operations and ten new brown road signs placed on major intersections inside and outside Veliko Tarnovo, and more intelligible, thanks to explanatory information boards installed throughout the archaeological reserve and the availability a new 32-page site guide, in English and Bulgarian.

Conservation, Restoration, and Socialization of Archaeological Monuments from Ancient Colony Deultum near Debel village. SPCME, funded 2010.

Dr. Krasimira Kostova, Director of the Municipal Museum of Sredets, reports:

The Archaeological Reserve “Deultum-Debel” is a monument of historical heritage with national importance for modern Bulgaria. That importance is due to the quantity, quality, and variety of archaeological remains, providing evidence of habitation from the Bronze Age to the XIV c. A.D. The main goals of the project include: (1) the conservation, restoration, and



Figure 10: Various objects from Deultum restored through the ARCS grant on display in the town of Sredets, December 2011.

display of finds from the primary excavations at Deultum that are currently threatened with destruction (Figure 10); (2) the integration of the monuments from the archaeological reserve; (3) the promotion of the archaeological heritage of Deultum by offering a new cultural product on the tourist market; and (4) the attraction of tourist flows from the West Black Sea coast and inland. The successful completion of the Deultum project affected the following target groups: (1) the tourists who visit South Black Sea coast, over 2 million per year on average, who can directly benefit from increased awareness of the rich cultural and historical heritage of Bulgaria; (2) tourist companies, consisting of hotels and other tourist facilities offering direct services, as well as tour operators and travel agents. There are approximately 5,000 companies offering services in tourism in southeast Bulgaria; (3) NGOs in tourism — over 10 in number — that develop important projects promoting new tourist sites together with regional tourist organizations; and (4) Sredets municipality and its neighboring municipalities, along with NGOs supporting local and regional economic development.

The backbone of the project was the curation of artifacts excavated at Deultum and their display as a temporary exhibit at the Regional His-

torical Museum, Burgas, scheduled for the summer of 2012. The restoration of the head from a bronze statue of the Roman emperor Septimius Severus is now finished, as is the conservation on the Roman glass, metal finds and the architectural monuments. For artifact conservation, the Sredets museum has been working closely with highly specialized personnel based in museums, institutes and laboratories in Sofia. A site guide in several languages, information leaflets, and ticket souvenirs are already available for visitors. Information boards have been installed throughout the archaeological reserve in addition to 14 new road signs placed on the territory of Burgas district.

Preservation and Enhancement of the Antiquity Collection of Museum of History 'Iskra', Kazanlak. SPCME, funded 2011.

Meglena Parvin, Municipal Museum of History 'Iskra', reports:

The Antiquity Department of the Museum of History 'Iskra' houses one of the richest collections of ancient artifacts in Bulgaria. Its permanent exhibition and the seven exposed monumental Thracian tombs represent attractive destinations for tourists from all over the world.

Figure 11: The new look of the storage facility of the Museum of History 'Iskra' at Kazanlak, December 2011.



Figure 12: The newly-conserved walls of the Bishop's Residence at the medieval town of Cherven, November 2011.



On a local level, the Museum is the major cultural institution in the town, and an intellectual resource for the entire community. While some of the most spectacular archaeological finds are shown to the public in the permanent exhibition of the museum, the rest of the artifacts are stored in inappropriate conditions. The lack of investment in the storage facilities of the Museum for the last 27 years has created an environment that endangers artifacts, impedes new acquisitions, and hinders the work of museum officers and scholars.

The present project aims: to ensure the basic conditions for a long-term preservation of the collection; to create a safe environment in the storage unit by reducing the main threat of humidity and the risk of physical damage; to recover space for the future acquisition of artifacts; to preserve endangered artifacts with high scientific and exhibit value; to enhance the work of museum officers and scholars wishing to study artifacts; and to draw public attention to the need for constant care for the collection.

The achievement of these goals passes through the following stages: the renovation of the store-room and the storage facilities; the restoration and conservation of the most endangered artifacts; and the organization of a new exhibition showcasing the newly-restored objects.

The refurbishment of the storage facility of the Museum is now completely finished (Figure 11). New shelves, a work desk, and new lighting are now installed. Three humidifiers purchased through the ARCS grant create a healthier atmosphere inside the room. All artifacts removed for the purposes of the refurbishment of the storage facility are now back on the new shelves. A new reference and labeling system for the scholars to use in the future is underway. The museum concluded a subcontract with conservators based in the National Museum of History in Sofia to carry out the specialized work on a number of important finds from their collections. These will be displayed for the public in May 2012.

Bishop's Residence from the Late Middle Ages — Archaeology, Education, and Tourism. SPCME, funded 2011.

Associate Professor Nikolay Nenoff, Director of the Regional Museum of History, Ruse, reports:

Cherven was founded in the 11th century and destroyed at the end of the 16th century. The town occupied a significant place in the history of Bulgaria and Wallachia in the 12th-14th century. The Bishop's Residence, dated to the 15th-16th century, is the only one in Bulgaria and it gives details about the material condition of the Church during the Early Ottoman period, the everyday life of the bishops, and the structure of their residences. The lack of conservation and restoration activities on the site is resulting in the demolition of the architecture built with stone and mud mortar.

The project's tasks are the following: the restoration, conservation, and exhibition of the Bishop's complex from the 15th-16th century; conservation and exhibition of artifacts found on the site; the organization of an educational module for archaeology for young students; the development of a guidebook for the Ruse Lom River Valley; and the production of a 27-minute movie, called 'The Unknown Valley: Journey along the Ruse Lom'.

Although the work at Bishop's residence in the Medieval town of Cherven is in its initial stages, the site is already much more accessible to visitors. Most of the existing architecture was consolidated and conserved in the second half of 2011 (Figure 12). Over 100 metal objects found during the excavation of the Bishop's residence were subcontracted for conservation. We have produced teaching aids and an archaeology workbook for schoolchildren to study archaeology in the premises of the museum. Several classes took place in the fall with great success. In addition, the documentary on the antiquities in the valley of Rusenski Lom River is underway; the movie is now in its pre-production and editing stages.

To Athens and Istanbul

By Denver Graninger, former Director of ARCS (2010-2012)

ARCS is committed to fostering the development of the next generation of Bulgarian scholars. Now in its third year, the FADS (Fellowships for Advanced Doctoral Students) program administered by ARCS sends advanced Bulgarian doctoral students to conduct research at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCOSA) or the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) for a period of one month. From the most diverse pool of applicants in the history of the FADS program, ARCS awarded 10 fellowships in February 2012. Here follows a list of the fellowship winners, their institutional affiliations and research projects, and where each fellow held their fellowship:

Mila Chacheva, National Institute of Archaeology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 'Personal Ornaments from the Greek Colonies on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, 6th - 1st c. BC' (Prof. K. Panayotova), ASCOSA.

Daniela Cherneva, University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia, 'Technological Characteristics and Conservation Problems of Red-Figure Polychromatic and Gilt Pottery from Apollonia Pontica, 4th c. BC' (Prof. L. Pavlova), ASCOSA.

Krastyu Chukalev, Department of Archaeology, New Bulgarian University, 'Cave-Use in the Neolithic and Chalcolithic in the Territory of the Eastern Balkans' (Prof. I. Gatsov), ASCOSA.

Alexander Harizanov, Department of Archaeology, Sofia University, 'Pottery Kilns in Today's Bulgarian Lands, I - VI Century' (Prof. A. Dimitrova-Milcheva), ASCOSA.

Vyara Kalfina, Department of the History and Theory of Culture, Sofia University, 'Ritual Aspects of Mythological Motives and Historical Narratives of Violent Death in Greek Cultural Context' (Prof. V. Gerjikova), ASCOSA.

Kristina Koseva, National Institute of Archaeology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 'Roman Glass from Bulgaria. Categories and Technology' (Prof. E. Gencheva), ASCOSA.

Ivelina Masheva, Department of Modern Bulgarian History, Sofia University, 'Bulgarian Merchants in the Ottoman Commercial Courts (1840s -1870s)' (Prof. N. Manolova-Nikolova), ARIT.

Desislava Popova, Department of Arabic and Semitic Studies, Sofia University, 'Defining the Boundaries of Islam through Fatwas Issued in the 16th - 18th Century Ottoman Arab Provinces' (Prof. S. Evstatiev), ARIT.

Milena Raycheva, Department of Archaeology, Sofia University, 'The Imperial Cult in the Roman Province Thrace' (Prof. K. Rabadjiev), ARIT.

Elmira Vasileva, Institute for Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 'The Bosnian Franciscans' Missionary Work in the Balkans, 1463-1688' (Prof. R. Zaimova), ASCOSA.

Comments from our 2012 FADS fellows:

'The FADS program gave me the opportunity to work in the Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi - the biggest archive for Ottoman documents in the world'.

'Another advantage of having been part of the FADS fellowship program was the establishment of many contacts with specialists in the field of Classical Studies. These informal discussions contributed to the development of my research'.

'Thanks to the FADS program, I was able to enrich considerably my knowledge of the region [Turkish Thrace] by finding useful literature, traveling to archaeological sites, and visiting local museums'.

On February 27, 2012, ARCS sponsored a public event celebrating our 2011 FADS fellows. These former fellowship winners presented the results of their research to the audience and shared their experiences with our 2012 FADS fellows.



Alexander Harizanov (left), PhD candidate in the Department of Archaeology at Sofia University and 2012 FADS fellow, speaks with Drago Garbov (right), PhD candidate in the Department of Archaeology at New Bulgarian University and 2011 FADS fellow, at a reception after the presentations of the 2011 FADS fellows.



Silviya Ivanova, PhD candidate in the Department of Archaeology at Sofia University and 2011 FADS fellow, presents the results of the research that she conducted at ASCSA.

Gipson Research Fellowships to Young Bulgarian Scholars

By Todor Petev, Director of the US Office of ARCS

Following the success of the Fellowships for Advanced Doctoral Students (FADS) program, ARCS initiated in 2011 a similar program for Bulgarian scholars who have defended their doctoral dissertations within the past ten years. The Gipson Fellowship, named after its sponsors, Robert and Nellie Gipson, provides optimal conditions for three months of research at the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA). It is intended to advance new and important historical research on the Balkans and to promote the professional development of outstanding scholars of the younger generation. The competition attracted thirteen strong applications.

Here follow excerpts from the reports of the three Gipson Fellows for 2011:

Chavdar Tzochev, independent scholar: Gipson Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens

My research project examines the amphora stamps from the Greek island of Thasos found at the ancient Agora of Athens, one of the most significant collections of such stamps. The amphorae of the island were used primarily as wine transportation containers. They were regularly stamped from the beginning of the 4th century BC until the middle of the 2nd century BC. Information encoded on the stamps includes the names and devices of producers, as well as the names of annually changing public officials. Thasian stamped amphora handles are thus an excellent dating instrument for archaeologists.

Amphorae from Thasos offer remarkable testimony to the ancient fame of the island as a first-class wine producer. Nearly 30,000 Thasian stamps have been found in an area which extends from the Russian steppes in the north to Egypt in the south, and from the Italian peninsula and Libya in the west to Afghanistan in the east. Thus, the significance of my research is

Chavdar prepares a study of some 700 stamped amphora handles from the island of Thasos found in the American School's excavations at the Athenian Agora. The Stoa of Attalos Research Center houses a collection of over 16,000 amphora stamps. The development of the collection and its recording was conducted under the inspiration of Virginia Grace, a member of the original Agora staff of 1931 who continued to work at the site until her death in 1994.



not limited to the site of the Athenian Agora, but extends to a number of archaeological sites in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea area. The publication that I am currently preparing will therefore have value not only for Greek archaeology, but will also be particularly useful to archaeologists in Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, and Russia – countries in the territories of which the Thasian amphorae were heavily exported in antiquity.

Thanks to the Gipson Fellowship offered by ARCS, I was able to examine the records of the Athenian Agora Excavations. I was able to verify the archaeological context of each Thasian stamped fragment found in the Athenian Agora. This was a crucial step for my research since many of the amphora handles were discovered in closed deposits related to specific infrastructures, public and domestic architecture. On the one hand, the stamps often provide the construction date of those structures, and, on the other, the chronology of the stamps can be refined thanks to the presence of other datable materials found in the same deposits. The Gipson Fellowship allowed me to bring my research to the publication stage of the project. In September 2011, I continued my project, this time with a nine-month Kress Publication Fellowship at the ASCSA where I am preparing a manuscript of the research results. By the end of this year I will submit the research paper for publication in the *Athenian Agora* or the *Hesperia Supplement* series.

The professional opportunity opened to me thanks to the Gipson Fellowship made an important difference in carrying on my project and bringing it to the final phase – its publication. I hope that this scholarship will continue to be offered by ARCS and I will warmly recommend it to colleagues.

Alexandra Trifonova, Research Fellow at Center for Slavo-Byzantine Studies ‘Prof. Ivan Dujčev’, Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’: Gipson Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens

My stay at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) helped my development as a scholar of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine art. First, I would like to mention the opportunity to conduct systematic research at

the exceptionally rich Gennadios Library, which specializes in Byzantine history, archaeology, and art. When necessary, I also visited other specialized libraries, such as that of the Byzantine Museum in Athens and the library of the Christian Archaeological Society.

My main post-doctoral research was on the topic: *The Workshop of Kastoria from the End of 15th Century and its Artistic Activity in Countries of the Balkan Peninsula*. The material I collected exceeded my expectations. In November 2012, I will take part in an academic conference in Kastoria (Greece), where I will present newly discovered information on the topic.

In parallel to this, I had the opportunity to collect materials for several other articles that I am preparing as well. One of them focuses on a particularly interesting icon from Albania, which I have been working with for quite some time, but which I had put aside due to the lack of a specific bibliography. Now completed, the article is sent for publication in the international journal *Byzantion*. The second article, which I subsequently intend to enrich and publish as a monograph, concerns portable icons from Bulgaria that were made by Athonite workshops. The third article deals with icons by Greek icon painters from the Black Sea coast. Finally, the fourth article is a critical publication of the text of a Greek manuscript about Greek merchants gathered into a commercial formation, which dates from the 19th century and was written in Hungary during the time of Ottoman rule in the Balkans.

Besides library research, I also had the opportunity to attend interesting lectures organized at the ASCSA, as well as lectures by prominent Greek professors at the National Center of Scientific Research. Of these, the most useful for me were lectures on Greek paleography by A. Celikas and Z. Mellisakis. Paleography is a rather difficult undertaking and in Bulgaria there are only two specialists in this field – Professor K. Pavlikyanov and D. Getov. I dare say that the skills I have acquired will be of great use not only for me, but also for the Center for Slavic-Byzantine Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” where I was recently appointed as a head assistant. The Center houses the richest collection of Greek manu-

Alexandra visits the Pantanassa Monastery at Mistras.



scripts in Bulgaria – a group which is not fully known to the academic community.

Another interesting aspect of my stay was the opportunity to familiarize myself with museum collections (the Byzantine Museum, the Acropolis, and the Archeological and Ethnographic Museums) and also to visit churches and monasteries that are useful for my research. One of my long-held dreams also came true – to visit Mistras, a Byzantine city in ruins on the Peloponnese, which was the last capital of Byzantium after the fall of Constantinople and where many churches and monasteries with interesting wall paintings from the 14th c. have been preserved.

The opportunity to meet American colleagues, who, like me, were staying at Loring Hall (in the dormitory of the American School), was particularly valuable because it allowed me to establish a number of professional contacts and to get a direct sense about the trends in Byzantine scholarship in North America. I hope these contacts continue and deepen in the future.

Milena Petkova-Encheva, Research Fellow, Faculty of History at Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’: Gipson Fellow at the American Research Center in Turkey

Thanks to the Gipson Scholarship at ARCS, I was able to conduct three months of research at the Ottoman archives in Istanbul. It is with a great sense of privilege and excitement that I approached the archives, which contain a significant amount of unstudied material concerning Bulgaria. The American Research Institute in Istanbul was an important source for my study as well. It has a library with a rich and very useful research collection. The institute also provides the opportunity to meet international scholars like L. Darling, A. Greenwood, A. Saltzman, and T. Kuehn, among other, and to discuss with them a range of issues about the Ottoman history.

The larger context of my study is the role of environmental and historical factors in a pre-industrial society that is in the process of absorption and adaptation of new territories. The Ottoman Empire is a perfect case-study for

such an inquiry. My research examines the upper part of the Thracian Valley, which, after the military conquest by the Ottomans, was appropriated demographically by an elaborate military and religious administrative apparatus.

The project focuses on the economic, social and cultural role of Yurouk settlers in Thrace during the Ottoman 'colonization' of the region. The Yurouks were nomadic people from Asia Minor who settled in the Balkans soon after the Ottoman conquest. The archival records I examined outline a distinct model of adaptability and survival by these people. My study reconstructs this model in its historical and environmental contexts. The two main trajectories of my research concern the development of a Yurouk settlement network and Yurouk agricultural activity.

The main historical source of my study are the tax registers (*taputahrir defters*) and other documents preserved at the archives in Istanbul. Based on my examination of those materials, I was able to draw the following conclusions:

-As nomadic people who developed adaptive strategies, the Yurouks played a key role in the early integration of the region within the Ottoman Empire;

-The difficulties in the Ottoman appropriation of the eastern part of the Thracian Valley and the weak settlement network there in the first two centuries after the conquest can be attributed to the difficult natural environment (marshes, bushy growth and forests with moors);

-By the 16th century, the Muslims in the region were already settled and involved in agricultural activities; data from the tax registers demonstrates that at that point old settlements of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom had been completely integrated and new settlers had appropriated the Bulgarian economic models;

-Evidence about a range of mutual influences (cultural, ethnic, etc.) between the 'conquered' and the 'conquerors' begins to emerge on the basis of economic integration which had already begun by the 16th century.

'Understanding the historical processes of integration of the conquered lands is one of the keys to coming to terms with the ethnic co-habitation and diversity of the Balkans in our time. Further studies of the archival evidence of that period will add much needed clarity to our understanding of the economic, social, and cultural processes that reshaped the region'.

Now at the writing stage, the project will result in a book-length monograph on the topic.

Understanding the historical processes of integration of the conquered lands is one of the keys to coming to terms with the ethnic co-habitation and diversity of the Balkans in our time. Further studies of the archival evidence of that period will add much needed clarity to our understanding of the economic, social, and cultural processes that reshaped the region.

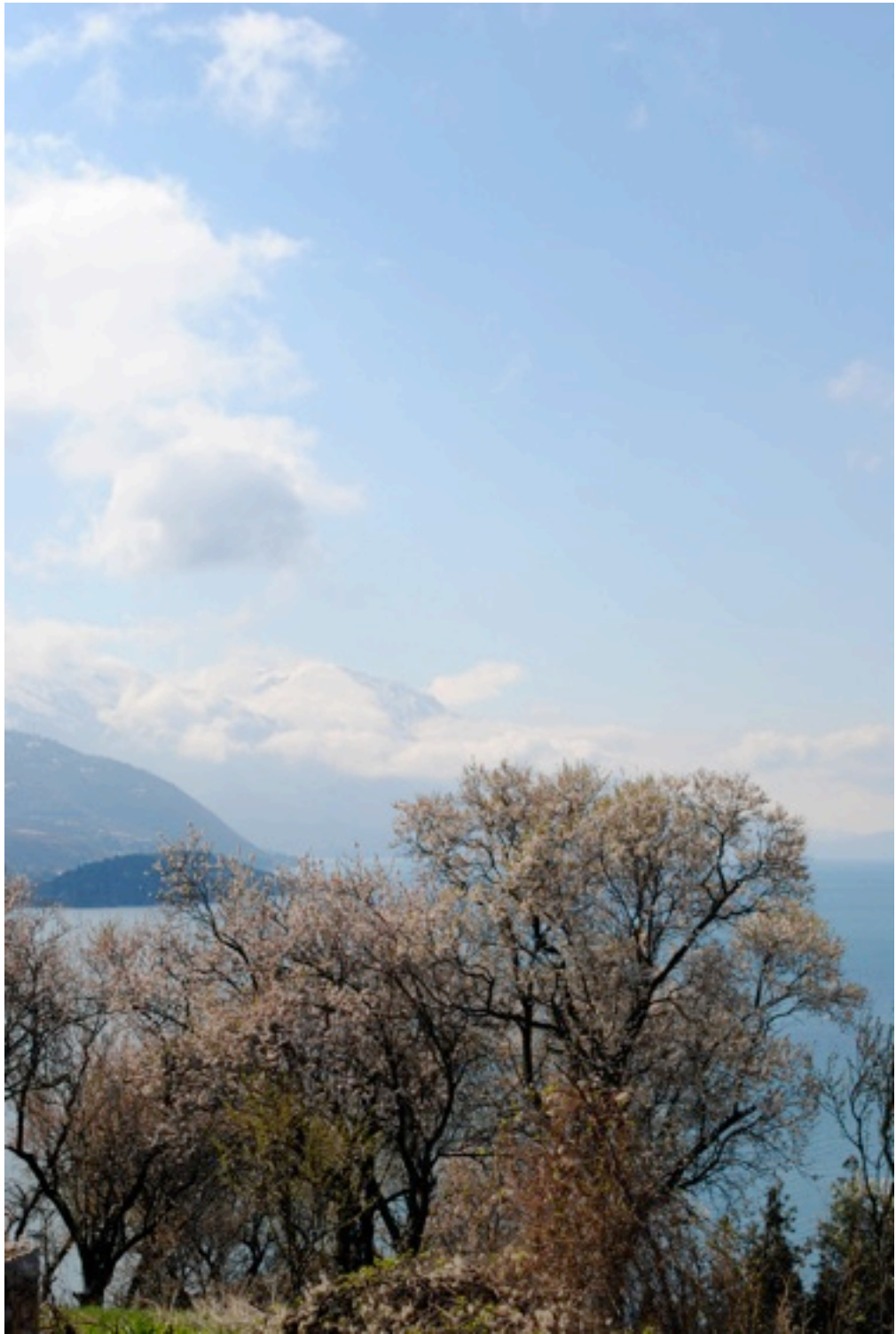
Editor's note: ARCS is pleased to announce that, thanks to the generous support of Robert and Nellie Gipson, this post-doctoral fellowship will continue in 2012. From a deep pool of 15 applications, Gipson fellowships were awarded to the following scholars:

Gergana Georgieva, Assistant Professor, Faculty of History, Veliko Tarnovo University, and Fellow, Institute for Balkan Studies, BAS: 'Ottoman Towns in the Balkans in the Mid-Nineteenth Century'. Gipson Fellow at the American Research Institute in Turkey.

Svetislav Ribolov, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Theology, Sofia University: 'Conception of God's Grace in the Dialogue between the Protestant Theologians and the Ecumenical Patriarchate during the Ottoman Epoch'. Gipson Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Nikolai Vukov, Associate Professor, Institute of Folklore, BAS: 'Trans-Border Commemorations across the Bulgarian-Turkish Border after 1989'. Gipson Fellow at the American Research Institute in Turkey.

Looking south
across Lake Ohrid
from the Church of
St. John the Theo-
logian at Kaneo.
The ARCS Aca-
demic Program
visited southwest
Bulgaria and Mace-
donia in April 2012.



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