



AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN SOFIA

# ARCS NEWSLETTER

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ARCS

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## ARCS Fellows 2012 - 2013

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## ARCS: Summer and Fall 2012 (Eric C. De Sena, Director of ARCS)

This Newsletter marks the conclusion of my first semester at the American Research Center in Sofia. **Prof. Denver Graninger** completed his term as Director of ARCS in June 2012 and began a position as Assistant Professor of History, University of California at Riverside. We thank him for moving ARCS in important directions and wish him well in his new endeavors. I began as the Director of ARCS on July 5 and the journey has been quite amazing, so far.

In Summer 2012, **Prof. Lyudmil Vagalinski** (Director, National Insti-

southern Bulgaria, northern Greece and the Republic of Macedonia. The team unearthed substantial architectural remains from the Late Roman period.

On September 3, ARCS welcomed two 9-month Fellows: **Andriy Fomin** (Rutgers University – Research Topic: *How Dio wrote History: Dio Cassius Historical, Literary and Intellectual Techniques*) and **Stefan Peychev** (University of Illinois, Urbana – Research Topic: *Public Baths and Urban Space: the Case of Ottoman Sofia*); and three 3-month Fellows:

research this Fall, while De Sena and Nankov heightened their experience through the Academic Program of excursions and public lectures. The first three days of the semester were *orientation visits* in Sofia. Most of the five Fellows already knew Sofia very well, so we enjoyed three days strolling through the neighborhoods, squares and museums of the city conversing about art, culture, conflicts and life through the ages. Highlights included visits to the recent excavations of Roman/Late Antique Serdica, which has revealed houses, shops, roads and churches dating between the 2nd and 6th centuries AD, the poorly understood church of St. George Rotunda, the Banya Bashi mosque, the National Archaeology Museum, the basilica of St. Sofia, the Monument to the Soviet Army, the mausoleum of Alexander Battenberg and the National Palace of Culture.

Considering that September has two important holidays related to the development of modern Bulgaria (Unification Day and Liberation Day), ARCS Staff and Fellows explored the colorful towns of central Bulgaria, where many of the renaissance men and revolutionaries were born and/or were active. On the weekend of Sept. 7-9, we undertook a *Bulgarian National Revival* excursion, following in the footsteps of Vasil Levski and other heroes and visiting Koprivshitsa, Karlovo, Shipka, the Freedom Monument, Gabrovo, Tryavna Veliko Tarnovo, Lovech and sites near Troyan. One week later (Sept. 15-19), ARCS led the Fellows on a 5-day excursion through central Bulgaria with nights in Plovdiv, Kardzhali, and Stara Zagora and visits to Asenovgrad, Harmanli and Kazanlak; one day and night were spent in Edirne, Turkey. On Sept. 26, we led the Fellows to the National History Museum and the Boyana Church on the outskirts of Sofia.



Koprivshitsa, Memorial to poet Dimcho Debelianov depicting his mother

tute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS), **Dr. Emil Nankov** (ARCS Archaeology Programs Officer), and **Dr. Hallie Franks** (New York University) led the first season of the Heraclea Sintica excavations. The joint NIAM/ARCS team consisted of about 40 members, including 10 American undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to gaining valuable archaeological experience, the students were led by Nankov and Franks on a series of field trips in

**Cengiz Haksöz** (University of Pittsburgh – Research Topic: *The Pomaks across the Greek, Bulgarian and Turkish Borders*), **Max Holleran** (New York University – Research Topic: *On the Coast: Tourism and Urbanization in post-Socialist Bulgaria*), and **Caroline Wisler** (University of Illinois, Urbana – Research Topic: *Approaches to Cultural Heritage Management in Post-Conflict Balkan Nations*).

The ARCS Fellows pursued their

ARCS Staff and Fellows went on a week-long excursion to Serbia, Oct. 5-11, and it is important to provide details of this trip. Our first destination was the archaeological site of Viminacium, an important Roman city located close to the Danube River. The Staff at Viminacium organized a symposium, *Archaeological Heritage: its role in Education, Presentation and Popularization of Science*, in which De Sena participated with a paper on the management and promotion of the Roman site, Porolissum, in Romania. On Oct. 6, ARCS headed to Belgrade, where we spent two nights and met **Mrs. Boba Werner**, archaeologist and wife of former professor of De Sena's at University of Albany, **Michael Werner**. Mike has conducted archaeological research in Serbia for a long time and in the last 10 years has been a leader, together with Mrs. Werner and the Ministries of Culture, Tourism and Economic Development to preserve archaeological sites and develop an itinerary, the Cultural Route of the Roman Emperors. Mrs. Werner was our guide for the remainder of our sojourn in Serbia. Next day, we met State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic and Regional Development, **Goran Petković**, for

an interview on Serbian National television. Afterwards, we visited Sremska Mitrovica, the location of the ancient Roman city of Sirmium. Several areas of the ancient city are exca-

Danube rivers.

On Oct. 8, we left Belgrade and drove to Kladovo, a small city on the south bank of the Danube. Along the way (ca. 200 km), we stopped at a



ARCS Fellows and Staff with Mrs. Boba Werner in Serbia, Imperial palace at Sremska Mitrovica

vated, most importantly the Imperial Palace with its excellent visitors center. The ARCS crew returned to Belgrade for the night, visiting at sunset the Kalemegdan fortress that overlooks the confluence of the Sava and

medieval fortress at Golubac and a very interesting and suggestive Mesolithic/Neolithic complex at Lepenski Vir. The next morning, we visited the archaeological museum at Kladovo and the remains of Trajan's Bridge, a concrete bridge constructed by Apollodorus of Damascus in the 2nd century AD. We spent the afternoon driving along the scenic course of the Danube for most of the day, arriving at Zaječar. On Oct. 10, we visited the archaeology museum of Zaječar and headed to the spectacular Roman site of Romuliana, birthplace of a Roman emperor Galerius. We then twisted into the mountains, stopping at an industrial city, Bor, and then to caves near the small town of Zlot. On Thursday, we visited the archaeology museum of Niš, ancient Naissus, the birthplace of Constantine, as well as an imperial residence at Mediana. We are very grateful to Prof. Michael and Mrs. Boba Werner!



ARCS Fall 2012 Fellows at Veliko Tarnovo

## Public lectures

We are grateful to **Glenn Bugh**, **Margarit Damyanov**, **Maya Vasileva** and **Dilyana Ivanova** for their lectures in September. Their topics ranged from an overview of ARCS to Thracian sanctuaries and from Classical Greeks on the Black Sea to Public Entertainment in Bulgaria during the Socialist period. We also thank **Anitra Thorhaug** and **Andrew Oerke** for offering an interesting event on Sept. 26. Dr. Thorhaug, an ecologist, presented a lecture on the ecological problems and forecasts of North and South America; she also discussed her projects to revitalize coastlines through the planting of sea grass. This was followed by a poetry reading by Andrew Oerke, who, among many other things, developed the concept of the Peace Corps.

In October, **Rossitsa Gradeva**, **Dorothea Valentinova**, **Alexander**

**Nikolov**, **Bogdan Athanassov**, **Evvelina Kelbetcheva** and **Vesselina Vachkova** presented fantastic lectures in our Public Lecture series. The topics were, respectively, *Christians, Muslims and Jews in Sofia during the Tanzimat period*, *Corruption and Anti-corruption legislation in ancient Rome*, *Bulgarian diaspora in early medieval Italy*, *Mobile Lifeways in the Eastern Balkan Late Bronze Age*, *Communist and post-communist monuments in Bulgaria*, and *Why Constantine used to say Serdica is my Rome?*

November and December saw **Eric De Sena** discussing the *Porolissum Forum Project*, **Petar Zidarov** with a presentation, *Latest results from remote sensing surveys at neolithic and Bronze Age sites in Bulgaria*, **Elisaveta Moussakova** lecturing on *Byzantine Manuscripts: South Slavonic traditions*, **Jordan Baev** and **Kostadin Grozev** presenting lectures on the *Cuban Missile Crisis: 50 years later*, and **Catherine Horel** discuss the *Multicultural Cities of the Habsburg Empire 1880-1914*. On Nov. 12 and 20, the five ARCS Fellows delivered lectures



Lectures at ARCS



Miroslav Lesichkov and MOTUS School of Medieval Swordsmanship at ARCS

on the state of their research. **Emil Nankov** hosted an evening event on Nov. 21 whereby the 2011-12 recipients of Site Preservation and Museum Enhancement grants presented overviews of their Projects. Finally, an interesting event that attracted about 30 high school and university students involved a lecture and demonstrations of Medieval swordsmanship by the **MOTUS School of Medieval Swordsmanship**. Lecturer **Miroslav Lesichkov** presented a summary of his decades-long research of Medieval manuscripts that demonstrate evidence for the rules and techniques of swordsmanship, followed by demonstrations by him and his students.

## The Arts at ARCS

Among the developments at ARCS has been the introduction of the Arts. The Flying Folk, a circle of poets, prose writers, artists, musicians (professional or occasional) founded by **De Sena**, **Ancuța Marieș** and **Valentin Krustev**, met six times between July and December to read and discuss poems and short stories by

members and non-members. In addition to the founders, FF includes local poet **Tanya Koliowska**, film producer **Ben Bedo Manoukian**, theater director/poet/translator **Kamen Kostov**, actress **Marina Alexandrova**, musicologist **Claire Levi**, professor of classical studies at Sofia University, **Dorothea Tabakova** and assistant cultural officer of the US Embassy, **Ana Todorcheva**.

During the final reception of the Communications and Commerce conference on Friday, Oct. 26, the participants enjoyed a performance by the director and students of the **American University in Bulgaria Choir**. We thank Choir Director, **Prof. Hristo Krotev**, pianist **Nikolina Kroteva**, soprano **Anna Yakovleva**, mezzo-soprano **Dana Omirova** and baritone **Kristian Chichmanov**.

## ARCS Conference and Exhibition at National Archaeology Museum

ARCS hosted a successful conference, October 25-26, *Communication and Commerce in the Balkans from Alexander the Great to Alexander Battenberg*. Twenty-one scholars, primarily from Bulgaria but also from the USA, Poland and Republic of Macedonia, presented 20-minute lectures on a variety of topics concerning roads and rivers, merchandise and markets, law and exchange of infor-



Relief sculpture from the National Archaeology Museum, Sofia; funerary stela

mation followed by lively debates.

Communication and commerce have always been important elements of human society. Between cell phones, Skype and social media, we modern people are in constant contact with each other (like it, or not). News travels from one part of the world to another in an instant. Modern communication relies primarily upon satellites

and cables, while the exchange of merchandise requires roads, water and air. In the ancient and early modern periods, communication and commerce were more strongly linked, as the means were the same - roads, rivers and the sea. Information and merchandise traveled hand-in-hand and the basic systems did not change from antiquity to the 19th century with the innovations of the railroad, steam engines and telegraph/telephone. This was the impetus for the broad chronology of the ARCS conference.

An important component of the conference was the inauguration of an exhibition at the National Archaeology Museum (NIAM-BAS), *Communication and Commerce in the Roman Balkans*. De Sena curated the exhibition, working closely with Vice Director of the Museum, **Maria Reho** and Curator, **Pavlina Ilieva**. About 70 pieces from the Museum Collection were on display: coins, jewelry, bronze decorative elements of carriages, iron rims of cart wheels, amphorae, perfume jars, and, of course, a relief sculpture of the god Hermes/Mercury, patron of communication and commerce. A series of posters provided information on the general nature of the Roman economy, Villa Armira and agriculture, the Balkans as a source of raw materials and producer of food and manufactured goods, the Balkans as a consumer of goods brought in from long-distance sources such as Africa, Spain and the Near East, as well as money, salaries and prices.

The exhibition was inaugurated



Relief sculpture from the National Archaeology Museum, Sofia; Mercury

the evening of October 25, 2012 with speeches by **Lyudmil Vagalinski** (Director of NIAM), **Lenko Lenkov** (America for Bulgaria Foundation), **Valentin Georgiev** (Exec. Director of American Chamber of Commerce) and ARCS Director, **Eric De Sena**. About 90 invited guests attended, including the 21 scholars who presented papers at the ARCS conference, ARCS Staff and Fellows, American Chamber of Commerce members, including **Ellen Greenberg** (Founder and President of the Greenberg Medical Center, Sofia), officials from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and Italian Ambassador to Bulgaria, **Marco Conticelli**.

De Sena is grateful to Boyana Boyanova, Elitsa Popova at ARCS and Prof. Vagalinski, Prof. Reho, Pavlina Ilieva, Miroslava Dotkova, Krasimir Gheorghiev, Krastyu Chukalev, Petar Dimitrov, Zdravko Dimitrov, Katya Melamed, and Maria Taseva of the Museum. The exhibition was on display through the end of November.



Lyudmil Vagalinski, Lenko Lenkov, Eric De Sena, Valentin Georgiev (l-r)

## ARCS in the USA

ARCS hosted a small number of events in the USA during the second half of 2012 and early 2013. The most successful public event involved the screening of Atanas Kiriakov's documentary, *The Survivors: Camp Tales*, at the Bulgarian Consulate in New York City on Nov. 30. Consul **Radoslav Totchev** introduced the program and gave his views on the importance of Nassya Kravevska-Owens book. **Kevin Clinton** (President of ARCS Board of Trustees) said a few words about ARCS and introduced the speakers, who each spoke briefly about the book: Bulgarian Ambassador to UN **Stefan Tafrov**, **Evelina Kelbetcheva** (American University in Bulgaria and Member of ARCS Managing Committee), and **Ivan Emanuilov Ivanov** (New York University). US Director of ARCS, **Todor Petev**, set up in the adjoining hall a display of printed materials (newsletters, brochures) about ARCS, several copies of the book, and a Power Point presentation about the Center and communist monuments.

**Nina Totcheva**, ARCS Financial Manager, made the arrangements for the beautiful reception.

**Glenn Bugh**, **Nora Dimitrova**, **Emil Nankov** and **Eric De Sena** attended the joint AIA/APA Meetings in Seattle, Jan. 2-6, 2013. A meeting of the Managing Committee was led by Glenn Bugh on Jan. 4, while De Sena and Nankov were involved in a day-long meeting the previous day in conjunction with the **Field Museum of Chicago**. The purpose of the joint ARCS/Field Museum committee was to determine the awardees of grants for collaborative and *high-risk* archaeology projects and for site preservation/museum enhancement projects in Bulgaria. ARCS and the Field Museum hosted a reception for 60 guests at a Seattle restaurant on Jan. 5.

The **Metropolitan Museum of Art** opened its doors to **Todor Petev** and **Eric De Sena**, allowing them to lead a privileged group of ARCS Friends through portions of the Near Eastern and Greco-Roman galleries on Monday, January 7. De Sena and Metropolitan Museum Researcher, **Morena Stefanova** led a 90-minute tour of a

dozen objects with relevance to Bulgaria and the Balkans. Stefanova focused on several silver and gold objects related to Thracian culture, while De Sena discussed an Attic Red Figured Krater with a scene of Orpheus and a Thracian woman, a gilt pectoral from the Balkans and a larger-than-life-sized bronze statue of Roman Emperor, Trebonianus Gallus, who had served as governor of Moesia prior to his emperorship in AD 251-53.

Finally, on Jan. 8, De Sena led a discussion about Roman archaeology for 250 Sixth graders of the **Somers Middle School** in New York State (which De Sena attended many moons ago). With a slide show of images taken at Roman sites in Italy, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia running in the background, De Sena recounted his *career path* from a Sixth grader with a deep interest archaeology to a professor of archaeology in Rome and, finally, director of ARCS. Much of the 30-minute session involved questions and answers with discussions of Pompeii, archaeological methods and life in Bulgaria.

## Funded Programs for Bulgarian and US-based Scholars

Between July and December 2012 twenty-four Bulgarian scholars were awarded **International Conference Travel awards** for participation in academic conferences: Bogdan Athanassov, Iordan Avramov, Milena Benovska, Ivan Biliarski, Shaban Darachiev, Mariana Dimitrova Nyagolova, Zlatomira Gerdzhikova, Maria Gurova, Bistra Gyaourova, Marian Gyauriski, Mariya Ivancheva, Krassimir Leshtakov, Tonka Kostadinova, Ivaylo Markov, Elena Marushiakova, Nayden Prahov, Maria Russeva, Victoria Russeva, Ivanka Slavova, Tsvetelin Stepanov, Evelina Todorova, Milena Tonkova, Boyan Totev, and Julia Valeva. The average award was \$500.

On December 6, 2012, ARCS an-

nounced the 2013 call for applications for the **Bulgarian Scholars Program** (formerly called Fellowship for Advanced Doctoral Students). This Program allows up to 10 Bulgarian PhD students registered at Bulgarian universities to pursue research for one month at either the American School of Classical Studies in Athens or the American Research Institute in Turkey (Istanbul or Ankara). Last year's FADS will participate in a workshop on February 20, 2013 where they will present reports on the research they conducted in 2012 and their overall experience at ASCSA or ARIT.

The deadline for the **ARCS Pre-doctoral Fellowship** was January 31 and we are in the process of selecting the 2013-14 ARCS Fellows. The can-

didates come from a wide variety of American universities and have interests in Medieval, Ottoman, Modern and Contemporary issues. ARCS will support for the first time a **Postdoctoral Fellow** in the 2013-14 academic year. The winner of this Fellowship will be announced in mid-February. Fellowships are an important component of the Center. Fellows benefit by being hosted in Sofia for a substantial amount of time (3 or 9 months in the case of the Pre-doctoral Fellows and 6 months in the case of the Postdoctoral Fellow) and participating in the ARCS Lecture Series as well as the excursions led by De Sena and Nankov. Reciprocally, ARCS benefits by hosting about a dozen of the brightest scholars from the US who provide a wealth of knowledge and important insights.

## News from ARCS Archaeology Program Officer (Emil Nankov)

### Heraclea Sintica Archaeology Field School

During the summer of 2012, **Prof. Lyudmil Vagalinski** (Director, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS), **Dr. Emil Nankov** (ARCS Archaeology Programs Officer) and **Prof. Hallie Franks** (New York University) led the first season of the joint NIAM/ARCS Heraclea



ARCS 2012 Field School students at the sanctuary near Levunovo

Sintica excavations, June 28-July 21.

Situated near the village of Rupite in Southwest Bulgaria, on the slopes of an extinct volcano, near the confluence of the Strumenshnica (ancient Pontos) and Struma (ancient Strymon) rivers, Heraclea Sintica was an important Hellenistic city. The location of Heraclea Sintica along the Strymon River and at the junction between valleys leading west into Illyricum and south into Greek Macedonia, contributed toward the wealth of the city as a commercial center. The city thrived in the Roman and Late Antique periods, as a major center within the Roman province of Macedonia Prima, declining in the early Middle Ages. A Latin inscription discovered in 2002, dated to AD 307-308, preserves the granting of city status to the Heracleans under

Galerius, definitively identifying the site at Rupite as that of Heraclea Sintica, a city previously known from ancient literature and coinage.

The joint NIAM/ARCS team consisted of about 40 members, including 10 American undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to instruction in field archaeology and a vigorous series of lectures, Dr. Nankov and Prof. Franks led the

American students on a series of field trips in southwest Bulgaria, northern Greece and the Republic of Macedonia on weekends. Archaeologically, the NIAM/ARCS excavations concentrated on the area adjacent to a Roman terracotta workshop, in order to clarify phases of occupation, urban

layout, and the use of urban space. This season's excavations forwarded these research goals through the exposure of the northwest corner of a large room (likely from the second and third periods of occupation during 3rd century AD), a north-south street to the west of this room, and a hastily-constructed partition wall, inserted to divide the room in the fourth period of occupation during 4th century



AD. While conclusions are still preliminary, finds have confirmed the prominence of high-quality terracotta production, the prevalence of fishing, and the use of local marble. Dr. Nankov and Prof. Franks presented a poster devoted to the results from the 2012 season during the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Seattle, WA, from January 3-6, 2013.

The second field season of the NIAM/ARCS excavations is planned for May 29-July 1, 2013. In addition to the three-week excavation season, Nankov and De Sena will lead the American students on a 10-day excursion to archaeological sites and museums in Bulgaria. The Team will begin in Sofia and will visit Svishtov, Ruse, Silistra, Varna, Burgas and Plovdiv, as well as smaller sites in between.



Megan Weldy (UM) sorting pottery from Heraclea Digging deep at Heraclea

### SPCME Projects

As Friends of the Center are aware, ARCS and the Field Museum in Chicago award a small number of grants each year to Bulgarian institutions for Site Preservation, Conservation or Museum Enhancement. Two SPCME Projects were completed in summer 2012 by the **Municipal Museum of History in Kazanlak** and the **Regional Museum of History in Ruse**. The Archaeology Museum in Kazanlak utilized the funding in order to renovate a portion of their storage facilities, to conserve several dozen small artifacts and to install a temporary exhibition regarding the restored objects. The Regional Museum of History in Ruse project surrounded the Bishop's Residence in Cherven and involved: restoration, conservation, and exhibition of the Bishop's complex from the 15th-16th century; conservation and exhibition of movable cultural material found on the site; organization of an educational module for archaeology for young students; elaboration of a guidebook for the Ruse Lom River valley and production of a 27-minute movie, called *The Unknown Valley: Journey*

*along the Ruse Lom*. As a part of what we hope to become a traditional venue for presentation of site preservation and museum enhancement work in Bulgaria, the project directors presented the results at ARCS on November 21, 2012.

Four SPCME projects awarded in 2012 are in progress: *Pistiros Exposition Hall – Presentation and Socialization of Cultural Artifacts*; *Museum for Small and Grown-ups: the Varna Educational Museum*; *Conservation, Restoration and Exhibition of Stone Architectural Elements and Pieces of Inventory of the Temple of the Pontic Mother of Gods in the Greek Colony Dionysopolis*; and, *Revivification of the Ancient Durostorum in the Archaeological Museum – Silistra*. All projects involve museum enhancement focusing on optimizing their infrastructure, along with creating tools for more effective public outreach, such as the publication of guidebooks, exhibit catalogues, promotional leaflets, etc. The Municipal Archaeology Museum in Septemvri (project director: Sevdalina Popova) is already in the process of setting up a permanent exhibit of artifacts from the well known site of Pistiros, sup-

plemented with a publication of an illustrated catalogue. The Regional Museum of History in Varna (project director: Lilyana Lipcheva) is making good progress at refurbishing the Museum for Small and Grown-Ups, whose amenities would be ready to receive the first group of local school-children in the summer of 2013. The Municipal Museum of History in Balchik (project directors: Radostina Encheva and Igor Lazarenko) has just completed the restoration of architectural members from the early Hellenistic temple of the Pontic Mother of the Gods. The next stages of the project involve refurbishing works within the museum in order to redesign and display the artifacts for the public. The Regional Museum of History in Silistra (project director: Georgi Atanasov) is on the path of improving the conditions of several exhibit rooms within the museum, in addition to installing new visual aids, such as a 1:150 scale model of the Late Antiquity fortress at Durostorum and a replica of a Roman cart.

The ARCS/Field Museum committee met on January 3, 2013 and selected five projects which will be announced officially in February.

### ICAB and HRAR Projects

In addition to the SPCME grants, the ARCS/Field Museum awards research funds to collaborative archaeology projects. Projects for 2012-13 were: the **Balkan Valley Project (BVP): Excavation at Magura Cave** (P.I., David Strait, State University of New York, Albany, and Stefanka Ivanova, NIAM-BAS) and **Uncovering the Upland Zone Archaeological Heritage: A Case Study from the Mirkovo Basin, Bulgaria** (P.I., Boyan Dumanov, New Bulgarian University, and John Chapman, Durham University, UK).

The **Balkan Valley Project** conducted archaeological excavation of Pleistocene deposits at Magura Cave in northwest Bulgaria. The short-term objectives were to establish the geochronology, stratigraphy, and chrono-

logical framework of hominin occupations, to provide an initial assessment of faunal and lithic assemblages, and to test hypotheses and answer research questions developed during the 2011 field season. Two long-term objectives pertain to hominin biogeography and behavioral ecology. First, this project seeks to augment the evidence that can be used to test hypotheses about hominin and faunal dispersals into and out of Europe during the Pleistocene, and to assess whether or not those dispersals were associated with glacial cycles. Second, this project seeks to gather data that can be used to test hypotheses regarding the degree to which climate change induced ecological stress within hominin populations, thereby altering activity patterns and behavior.

The **Mirkovo Basin Project** proposes a combination of three high-risk methods hardly used before in Bulgaria to identify sites and monuments in pastureland and forest with two well-tested techniques for validation. The Mirkovo Basin covers c. 200 km<sup>2</sup>; the team focuses on the study of the three main zones using different methods: 12% arable (intensive field-walking, UAV and LIDAR survey), 30% pasture (landscape geophysics, geochemical mapping, UAV and LIDAR survey) and 50% forest (UAV and LIDAR survey). This project links cutting-edge archaeological science to upland ethno-archaeology and seeks to transform our knowledge of European upland land-use. A successful feasibility study opens up much of the European uplands to similar methods.

## News from the ARCS Library

Our full-time librarians, **Boyana Boyanova** and **Elitsa Popova**, have been diligently improving the Library in many ways. The Collection stands at around 14,000 volumes (of which 500 have just been received from the US and are being catalogued). We subscribe to JSTOR with access to about 5000 journals in the Humanities and



Social Science and are members of the Anthropological Association of America which gives access to dozens of additional journals related to anthropology.

The ARCS on-line catalogue is migrating from the stand-alone format to a format that links several other major libraries in Bulgaria. **NALIS** (National Academic Library and Information System - [www.nalis.bg](http://www.nalis.bg)) is our new host, although the stand-alone catalogue is still available on the ARCS website. ARCS Library is part of another project - **DLIR** (Digital Library for International Research) established by

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). Its goal is to maintain an on-line public access catalog containing the records of all the holdings in all participating libraries. ARCS Library catalogue contains around 1800 so far and more are about to be imported in the beginning of 2013. (<http://catalog.crl.edu/search~S49>).

ARCS possesses around 450 *double copies* of books which we have received primarily through donations. The librarians have completed a list that we use in the event of library exchanges. Three boxes were donated to New Bulgarian University Library so far and two more are about to be donated. An Interlibrary Loan agreement is about to be concluded between ARCS Library and New Bulgarian University Library, which will enable readers from both libraries to require materials from each library.

## Reports and Reflections of the Fall 2012 ARCS Fellows



**Cengiz Haksöz**  
(University of Pittsburgh; ARCS Fellow Fall 2012) Research Topic: *The Pomaks across the Greek, Bulgarian and Turkish Borders*

The idea of nationalism assumes, idealizes, or imagines a single national identity within the territories of a given nation-state<sup>1</sup>, marked by shared ethnicity, language, and religion. Construction of such group identities is a complex and multi-sided phenomenon involving members of the group in question and other groups, plus any states in which the group lives. A nation-state may use *Ideological State Apparatuses* and also *Repressive State Apparatuses* to assimilate a minority group<sup>2</sup>. One of the most common practices used by the nation-state is imposing a specific version of history on minority groups, via mass education (e.g. through history textbooks) and mass media<sup>3</sup>. As a part of this process, an external force,

enemy, or oppressor may also be imagined as responsible for having changed the “original identity” of the minority group(s) in question. Therefore, a nation-state may propagandize that there is a need to reinstate this “original identity” in order to create an integrative society. While propagandizing this “reinstitution”, the state may attempt to change or modify the ethnonym of the group in question into one which may show the relation of the minority group to the idealized majority.

My project focuses on one such minority group, the Pomaks, generally seen as a Muslim group who speak variants or dialects of Bulgarian and whose ancestors were converted to Islam around the 17th century. Their conversion from Christianity to Islam, for a long time, has been considered a forced one. However, some recent scholarship acknowledges that there were socio-economic motives behind their conversion<sup>4</sup>. Pomaks live mainly in the Rhodope mountains, which are divided between Bulgaria and Greece.

There are Pomak groups in Turkey, as well. Pomaks in Turkey are mostly immigrants from Bulgaria and Greece as a result of population exchanges and forced migrations. Exact numbers of their population are not available, partly because, in order to challenge their identifications, none of the three states includes them as a separate category in their official statistics and censuses. However, official naming of Pomaks varies in the several states in which they live.

For example, Pomaks may be called “Bulgarian Muslims” or “Bulgarian Mohammedans” in Bulgaria, “Slavic speaking Hellenes” in Greece, or “Pomak Turks” in Turkey.

Pomaks, like other minorities in the three states, do not have the means to construct a standardized communal or collective historiography. They are deprived from administrative, juridical, and political power to erect monuments, such as sculptures, commemorative installations, etc, to show their presence and their view on their collective history.

After the fall of state socialism, there was a boom of mosque construction in regions except the city centers. There are even villages with three mosques, which is very unusual for Bulgarian circumstances. Mosques have become primary symbols to represent the Muslim, but more importantly Pomaks' existence in the region. Especially, the "liberation" discourse is very powerful and seems to be, or at least is expected to be, unquestionable and unchallengeable<sup>5</sup>. In this project, I investigate how Pomaks deal with different challenges and contestations in different contexts, and how they (re) create their identities and their communal memories.

Spending three months in Sofia as

an ARCS fellow, gave me a great opportunity to stimulate further ideas about my topic. Besides my primary research area, I am grateful that, during the lectures and academic excursions organized by the ARCS, I was also able to see the general snapshot of Bulgarian memoryscapes. For example, I was able to see how 'official memory' or history is continuously reconstructed through various memoryscapes, not only in Bulgaria, but also in Turkey and Serbia. It was amazing to see how powerful, but at the same time, how selective can the legacies of history be. For example, while nationalist memoryscapes can remain almost without challenge, such as those of communist legacies are in ongoing reconstruction and

challenge. I would like to express my sincere gratitude once again to all ARCS family for giving this opportunity to me and allowing me to have a great and productive time in Sofia.

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4. Todorova, Maria (ed.) (2004) *Conversion to Islam as a Trope in Bulgarian Historiography, Fiction and Film*, in *Balkan Identities: Nation and Memory*, pp. 129-157, New York.

5. Brunnbauer, Ulf (1999) *Diverging (Hi)Stories: The Contested Identity of the Bulgarian Pomaks*, *Ethnologia Balkanica*, Vol. 3, pp 35-50.



**Stefan Peychev**  
(University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; ARCS 9-month Fellow, 2012-2013). *Reflections on the Danube*

My most memorable experience from the first semester of the ARCS fellowship program was an encounter with the Danube River during our excursion in Serbia in October. Even though I was born and spent my childhood and teens by the Danube, I never managed to develop a strong bond with this river. My home town Rouse, still an important industrial center in my childhood, has experienced a steady decline since 1989. This is perhaps one of the reasons why I felt so out of place in my teens. The immense dimensions of the river and the featureless landscape of the opposite shore, followed by the

vast flatness of southeastern Romania, only added to this notion of endless nothingness. This fall's trip to Serbia, however, gave me an unexpected opportunity to rethink my idea of the Danube.

In Belgrade, at the Kalemegdan Fortress, overlooking the confluence with the Sava, I finally associated the river with history – Medieval Serbia, its national saint, the Ottoman times, the wars between Ottomans and Habsburgs, and the rise of the Serbian national state in the early nineteenth century. Our next stop, the fortress at Golubac, represents an impressive link between the river and the medieval history of the Balkans. Byzantines, Serbs, Hungarians, Ottomans held this important fortress at different times. The surreal beauty of Lepenski Vir – both the peculiar Mesolithic remains and the im-

pressive landscape – added a sense of mystery and drama to the Danube. The stretch between Lepenski Vir and Kladovo, however, was the one that impressed me the most. Casting off the garb of a timeless symbol of boredom, the Danube displayed the scenic contrasts and blends of water and earth, man and nature, past and present.



*the Danube at Golubac*



**Max Holleran**  
(New York University; ARCS Fellow Fall 2012), Research Topic: *Coastal real estate development on the Black Sea*

Studying coastal development sounds like a very desirable academic job: one gets the impression of ethnographic research done with a *mojito* and a bottle of tanning oil. However, I argue that coastal development is also serious business,

not merely because tourism is, by some reckoning, the world's largest industry but also because problems like global warming, environmental degradation, and excessive development are also associated with the coast. My work deals with urban development along the Black Sea coast from 1996 until the present. While at ARCS I have been investigating this subject through interviews with architects, urban planners, and real estate developers.

More specifically, I am writing a

dissertation in sociology about real estate booms and busts and how coastal development became a key economic force in peripheral European countries. I'm not only interested in whether this economic force generally works – I maintain it does not and I think the fiscal crisis of 2008 is a good example of this – but also the social consequences of large-scale coastal development. My study looks at the movement of real estate development from Spain in the 1990s to Bulgaria and the ways in which

professionals in this industry make use of a new periphery for fresh investment and construction.

One of the main focuses of this research is how this development often escapes proper regulation and has ecological and social consequences for residents of coastal communities. My study is generally critical of the ways in which the Black Sea coast was developed in the past 15 years but this criticism is not limited to Bulgaria alone and I seek to frame the issue as an international problem across the European Union. One way that my work connects to the broader mission of ARCS is by examining the

protection of historic places in rapidly developing seaside towns. I'm interested in how economic interests tied with tourism seek to promote historic monuments, while also attempting to limit regulation of how these spaces can be used, preserved, and developed. This issue gets particularly complex when historic monuments are in the centers of cities like Varna, where planners and developers must strike a balance between preservation and regulation that often ends in legal disputes.

Finally, my work seeks to join studies of post-socialist urban development with western European real es-

tate development. These two pieces of contemporary history are often studied separately to the detriment of a better comparative understanding. Post-socialist trajectories are indeed unique but they are often examined by social scientists as if they have no analogies in countries without a history of communism. By looking at the evolution of the European periphery from post-Franco Spain to post-socialist Bulgaria, I hope to shed some light on how urban growth was similar in the East and West and how understanding the two as part of a single phenomenon may help us better address environmental problems.



**Andriy Fomin**  
(Rutgers University,  
ARCS 9-month Fel-  
low) *Reflections on*  
*the Fall at ARCS*

Before my arrival to ARCS, I had spent a year as a regular fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Having been admitted to ARCS, I expected to become a part of a similarly organized educational/research institution. To my surprise, as much as ARCS has been molded in the likeness of ASCSA, it offered a very different kind of educational and cultural experience. The fact that I was the only classicist this year invested me with an extra responsibility of being, to a certain extent, a guardian of the classical tradition rooted in the very idea behind the foundation of ARCS. On the other hand, because the focus of the mission of ARCS extends beyond classical studies and archaeology, it made me think more about global issues pertaining to the history and cul-

ture of Bulgaria and Balkans. The ongoing scholarly dialogue fostered at ARCS with guest lectures, conferences and exhibitions, continuously refreshed by original outlooks brought in by its own fellows, creates a truly unique working and collaborative environment. The experience of conversing in such an environment offers an invaluable advantage to a young scholar preparing to enter a changing, globalizing, and interdisciplinary-oriented world of modern academia.

Inviting graduate students in different stages of the advancement of their degrees, ARCS is able to accommodate a variety of their research needs. While other fellows' scholarly agendas were primarily connected with field-work in the region, collecting the data for their research, my main goal was defined as finishing the text of my dissertation. ARCS, with its ever-growing library, was the perfect place for me, but my stay here has not been limited to writing. Academic trips across Bulgaria (as well as to

Turkey and Serbia) allowed me to collect notes and a plethora of photographic material useful for future teaching, since many of the visited archeological sites were ancient Roman. Without the guidance of our excursion leaders it would be, perhaps, impossible to gain such deep and profound insight into the nature of the important historical and archaeological sites in Balkans. Regular lectures covering vast range of topics contributed to a true collaborative scholarly spirit, which is a defining feature of ARCS as an educational/research institution.

These factors promoted fruitful research and, during the first half of my fellowship year at ARCS, I was able to finish a chapter of my dissertation and also prepare a paper, entitled "Wisdom Expressions (*gnomai*) in Dio Cassius," which I delivered at the 144th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in Seattle, WA (3-6 January 2013).



**Caroline Wisler**  
(University of Illi-  
nois, Urbana-  
Champaign)  
*Ringling the Bells at*  
*the Banner of Peace*

Early in the Fall, Stefan, another ARCS fellow, and I spoke about visiting the Banner of Peace Monument located in Mladost, southeast of the Sofia city center. It was not until late Novem-

ber, with only a couple days remaining on my Visa and on what may have been one of the most uninviting days of soggy, grey weather since our arrival in September, that we started in the monuments general direction, unsure of precisely how to get there. At the end of the city bus-line, we headed out on foot, avoiding the splash of the passing vehicles as they sped through ankle deep puddles and passing massive shopping centers

huddled next to the highway.

The monument was situated centrally in the International Park of Peace, on the top of a small rise just next to the noise and bustle of the highway and commercial center, both of which dwarfed the monument's oddly unassuming 37-meter central belfry. In 1979, when the monument was first inaugurated, the monument would have likely appeared more impressive, having greater visibility in

the landscape – now it appeared defeated and quite forgotten in comparison to the bustling shopping center nearby. On this day, the only other visitors to the monument were a dog in search of his lunch and a sleeping guard, reclining comfortably in his kiosk. The stairs leading up to the monument looked less like a processional route and more like a staggered foundation struggling to hold the neglected monument upright. Thin, gangly trees obscured the space leading to the belfry and circular enclosure of nearly 100 bells, each representing a country or international organization which contributed to the monument's creation. As Stefan and I moved counter clockwise around the monument, it became clear that many of the bells had been removed, damaged or defaced in the years since the original Banner of Peace program was discontinued in 1990, perhaps even earlier.

The inauguration of the Banner of Peace Monument marked the occasion of the first international Children's Assembly "Banner of Peace" in Sofia held in accord with the International Year of the Child designated by UNESCO in 1979. The program was created by Lyudmila Zhivkova and continued after her death in 1981 until 1990. The motto of the Children's Assembly program, as can still be seen on the monument, was "unity, creativity and beauty" and encour-

aged the peaceful interaction of children from all over the world, but also suggested that all individuals can contribute to peace, upon which the future relies, through the embodiment of this motto.

The title "Banner of Peace" has further significance, however, and directly refers to the Roerich Pact of 1935, signed into law by the United States and the majority of member states of the Pan-American Union in 1935. The Pact was intended to protect artistic and scientific institutions as well as cultural monuments, during times of both war and peace. These sites were to be designated as neutral by the Banner of Peace, a white flag with a red circle within which are three red spheres. Furthermore, for Nicholas Roerich, to whom the ideas of the Pact are attributable, a nation's cultural heritage was of global significance and had the potential to facilitate unity and peace: cultural heritage has the unique ability to unite despite the differences it may embody. These principles were and continue to be repeated within subsequent international agreements such as The Hague

Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and in the development of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972).

Despite the principles that the Banner of Peace Monument in Sofia em-

braces, the bells composing the monument and representing so many of the participating countries and international organizations, are decaying. Some have been stolen and others defaced. Other bells convey sharp hypocrisy: bells from the countries of Syria, Cyprus, Colombia, Israel and Yugoslavia, amongst others, made me consider the events that have occurred in the years intervening the dedication of this monument. A sign at the base of the monument instructs visitors that only children may ring the bells and then, not too loudly. Perhaps this sign is as revealing as the condition of the overlooked monument.

The state of the monument is indicative of the how the process of peace has fluctuated over time and also illustrates how the cultural landscape can communicate that which is typically written and spoken of elsewhere. It is this understanding that encourages me to continue looking at cultural landscape as a source of both information and inspiration, in particular for its potential in peace-building efforts. It also suggests the importance of a trans-disciplinary approach, one which was found during my experience at ARCS, where I could consider the landscape from the perspective of a historian, anthropologist, archaeologist, sociologist and classicist in turn.

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## Field Notes – News and Reviews from Bulgaria

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### Sveshtari gold hoard

The most impressive archaeological discovery of Fall 2012 occurred at the Thracian funerary site of Sveshtari in NE Bulgaria. Excavating a massive tumulus, archaeologist **Diana Gergova** (NIAM-BAS) and her team unearthed gold jewelry and adornments that had been placed inside a wooden box.

Gergova's story is fascinating: The team was excavating the tumulus with heavy machinery, when, at a certain point, Gergova noticed a slight anomaly in the manner in which the earth was packed. She climbed to the top of

the tumulus to inspect the unusual section of the mound that had been exposed and was visited by a snake that had climbed out of the anomalous area. Realizing that there was a void in the mound, the archaeologists excavated by hand and discovered a deposit of about 1.8 kg of gold. The material, which dates to ca. 300 BC, included a ring with an image of Eros, spiral bracelets in the form of snakes, embellishments of a horse's harness and a large object adorned with lion appliqué which may have been a diadem. The objects were not found in association with a burial and, therefore, have been provisionally identi-

fied as a *religious donation*, possibly to Apollo and Artemis.

While this discovery is quite important, it is discouraging that the media only focuses upon such "spectacular" finds, contributing toward a poor portrayal of archaeology. Archaeology is,



*Object discovered at Sveshtari*



*Object discovered at Sveshtari*

### Natural History Museum, Sofia

One of the most intriguing museums in Sofia is the Natural History Museum. Science falls beyond the realm of ARCS, yet the collection is worth a visit and the museum is fascinating to contemplate from a museum studies point of view. Accustomed to the National History Museum in New York City, I was surprised by the Sofia museum whose core was formed by the private collection of Royal Prince Ferdinand and later developed by naturalists, such as Ivan Buresch and Paul Leverkühn. While the museum in NYC has evolved over time in re-

of course, not about seeking ancient treasures, although this happens on rare occasions. The purpose of archaeology is to learn about all aspects of man through the study of material remains. It is, in fact, through the much more typical and “mundane” discoveries of collapsed walls and broken pottery that we truly learn

about our ancestors. The news reports also, unfortunately, fuel the aspirations of treasure hunters, a big problem in Bulgaria. Nevertheless, the Sveshtari discovery is very important and ARCS was privileged to witness the transfer of the material to the National Archaeology Museum in Sofia.

sponse to new approaches to educating museum visitors, the museum in Sofia has remained a product of the late 19th and early 20th century, when museums were considered to be study collections. The collection of NHM Sofia consists of an impressive array of geological, faunal and entomological specimens. The ground floor contains a gallery of minerals and rocks from Bulgaria and many parts of Europe; there are even samples of meteorites and a fragment of rock from the moon donated by the US government. Upon reaching the first floor, the visitor is greeted by a pair of stuffed ostriches, which sets the

tone for the remainder of the museum. The first floor contains exemplars of birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish from all over the globe. The second floor hosts mammals – bears, wild cats, bovines, deer, rodents, etc. The third and final floor is dedicated to flora and insects – beautiful butterflies are contrasted against the tiny, dried carcasses of ants, flies and termites. The visitor, thus, encounters thousands of species of fauna – both mounted taxidermically and preserved with formaldehyde in glass containers – arranged in a careful scientific manner. The experience is simultaneously captivating and creepy.

### Lovech

Among the various towns we visited with the ARCS Fellows was Lovech. Currently known in Bulgaria for its car manufacturing plant and a successful soccer team, Lovech was an important town in the 19th century – wealth was earned through the rearing of livestock, provision of timber and woodworking, as well as the production of manufactured goods. Lovech served for a short time as the head-

quarters of Vasil Levski’s revolutionary organization. In the second half of 1872, the Ottomans learned about the organization and its leader, forcing Levski to move frequently and plan a flight into Romania. Before leaving the country, however, Levski needed to visit Lovech in order to retrieve documents, which he did on Christmas Day 1872. He and a comrade left town the next day and spent the night of Dec. 26/27 in a nearby farmhouse. The Ottomans discovered Levski’s

location and raided the farmhouse – he was captured, put on trial and hanged. Lovech is now an interesting blend of old and new – naturally, there is Levski Museum and Monument as well as historical houses. Neglected in a residential area is an Ottoman hamam. A covered wooden bridge spans the Osam River and leads to a nicely restored piazza, where one can find a small assortment of good restaurants. Well worth a visit!

## Announcements for Spring/Summer 2013

In addition to our two 9-month ARCS Fellows, **Andriy** and **Stefan**, five 3-month Fellows will arrive in February: **Roy Kimmey** (Central European University, Budapest – Research Topic: Symphonic Secularism: a study of Bulgarian society, church and state under Communism); **Adrian Popan** (University of Texas, Austin – Research Topic: Cults of

personality of State leaders: causes and structural conditions in Totalitarian societies); **Elena Popan** (University of Texas, Austin – Research Topic: Stereotypes attached to minority groups in post-Communist societies: the case of Roma); **Elana Resnick** (University of Michigan – Research Topic: Old objects, fragile life: waste and escape in Bulgaria);

and, **Nadezhda Savova** (Princeton University – Research Topic: Food and cultural tourism in Bulgaria’s tangible places of intangible heritage). The Public Lecture series has been established and our excursions will take us to southwestern Bulgaria and Republic of Macedonia as well as to Bulgarian cities and sites along the Danube River and the Black Sea.

### The schedule of the Lecture Series is:

- **Feb. 12, Prof. Liliana Simeonova** (Inst. for Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology, BAS), *Reception of Classical Art in Ottoman Constantinople*
- **Feb. 13, Dr. Mario Ivanov** (NIAM-BAS), *Overview of the Excavations at the Central Metro Station in Sofia: Roman and Early Medieval Serdica*
- **Feb. 19, Prof. Petia Georgieva** (NBU), *A history and assessment of current Bulgarian political parties*
- **Feb 20, Reports by 2012 FADS** – Bulgarian Scholarships for Advanced Doctoral Students (3:00 p.m.)
- **Feb. 21, Prof. Momchil Metodiev** (Inst. for Studies of the Recent Past), *Patriarchal Elections under Communist Rule*
- **Feb. 26, Dr. Elena Marushiakova and Dr. Vesselin Popov** (Inst. of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum, BAS), *Roma Museums and Exhibits: breakthroughs for socially meaningful museums*
- **Feb. 28, Prof. Ellen Greenberg** (Greenberg Medical Clinic, Sofia), *The Creative Process and how to encourage or discourage creativity in organizations*
- **March 5, Prof. Daniele Malfitana** (Istituto per i Beni Archeologici e Materiali, CNR Catania), *The economy of Roman Sicily through material remains*
- **March 6, EUGENE SCHUYLER LECTURE: Prof. Dennis Hupchick** (Wilkes University, USA) *James F. Clarke: Pioneer of Bulgarian Historical Studies in the United States\*\**
- **March 7, Prof. Daniela Koleva** (Sofia University), *Post-Communist memory cultures: labor camp in Belene in public and private memories*
- **March 12, Dr. Maria Gurova** (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS), *Prehistoric flint assemblages from Bulgaria: raw material and diagnostic features in a diachronic perspective*
- **March 14, ROUND TABLE:** Public Art in the Balkans from the Roman Empire to Yesterday: intention, interpretation, controversy. 9:30-17:30.
- **March 19, Prof. Simeon Evstatiev** (Sofia University), *The Spread of Revivalism in 17th and 18th c. Islam: Middle Eastern Trajectories*
- **March 21, Ms. Maria Russeva** (Inst. of Art Studies, BAS), *Music and genocide: the Holocaust requiem, commemoration or redemption*
- **April 2, Dr. Katya Melamed** (NAIM-BAS), *Current Research on the Early Middle Ages in the Rhodope Mountains*
- **April 4, Prof. Markus Wien** (AUBG), *Nation Building in the 20th Century Balkans*
- **April 9, Dr. Chavdar Tzochiev** (Independent researcher), *Thracian transport amphorae from the Hellenistic period*
- **April 11, Prof. Pierangelo Castagneto** (American University in Bulgaria), *Involvement of American doctors in the fight against malaria in SW Bulgaria, 1920s-1930s*
- **April 23/24, ARCS Fellows Lectures I and II (7 presentations), 4:00 p.m.**

\*\* A note on the 2013 Eugene Schuyler Lecturer, Prof. Dennis Hupchick. Dr. Hupchick, the senior member of the history faculty at Wilkes University (Pennsylvania, USA), is a former Fulbright Scholar to Bulgaria and a past president of the Bulgarian Studies Association. He edited *The Pen and the Sword* (1988), a compilation of the work of Prof. James F. Clarke on the history and realities of the Bulgarian National Revival period.

**Dr. Eugene Schuyler** (Feb. 26, 1840 – July 16, 1890) was an

American scholar and diplomat whose career brought him to the Balkans. After spending several years as a US diplomat in Russia, Schuyler was named consul-general in Turkey (1876). He arrived several months after Bulgaria's "April Uprising" and was a prime mover in the documentation of atrocities of the Turks in Bulgaria – he was expelled from Turkey in 1878. Afterwards, he served in England, Romania, Serbia and Greece before moving back to the USA to teach at Johns Hopkins University and Cornell University.

### Awareness and Fundraising Campaigns

In addition to running our academic and funded programs, ARCS is engaged in awareness and fundraising campaigns. Since its birth in 2004, ARCS has proven itself to be a great institute; its youth, however, means that the Center still largely unknown. Our ever-growing Library, whose collection currently stands around 14,000 volumes, including many volumes not available elsewhere in Bulgaria and the Balkans, is underutilized. The Center hosts a dozen Fellows each year; we are striving for 20. We are very active during the Fall and Spring, yet when the last of the Fellows leaves in May, the facilities are underpopulated through August.

ARCS Administrators are in the midst of an important fundraising campaign, but we are also simply raising awareness of the Center, primarily in Bulgaria and the USA. We want more users to consult our stacks, more visiting researchers, and a greater audience for our lecturers. ARCS is also very interested in being the academic home of groups of US faculty and students who may visit the region in the summer or winter, during breaks in university calendars. **ARCS is here to serve and we ask our Friends to serve as ambassadors to spread the word.**

Since Summer 2012, we have made good progress with our *awareness*

*campaign* through an improved and expanded communication network: two printed newsletters per year, monthly E-newsletters and schedule updates to the 800+ people who have registered on our website ([www.arcsofia.org](http://www.arcsofia.org)), more frequent announcements via social media (Facebook and LinkedIn), and coverage in the local media (Bulgarian newspapers and radio). ARCS is also expanding its offerings and outreach programs through participation in conferences, work with museums, artistic events, a bolstered publication series, working with schools and other NGOs.

## ARCS and Community Events

ARCS Staff and Fellows had the pleasure of attending a number of special events during Summer and Fall 2012. De Sena and Petev attended **July 4th celebrations** at the US Embassy (July 3) and the American Chamber of Commerce dinner at the American College of Sofia (July 7). There were two farewell receptions for **Ambassador James Warlick**: Sept. 11, a reception for the America for Bulgaria Foundation at the residence of the US Ambassador, and Sept. 12, a reception hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce. De Sena was invited to attend an award ceremony at Sofia University on Sept. 19 for American professor of Medieval Studies, **Predrag Matejic**. He attended an **American Chamber of Commerce** breakfast for **Wendy Kopp**, founder of Teach for America on Sept. 26. ARCS Fellows and Staff were invited to a reception of the **Fulbright Commission of Bulgaria** on Sept. 28. De Sena participated in the inauguration of **American University**

in **Bulgaria's** new Student Center, financed by ABF, on October 19. Seven members of the ARCS Family attended the Thanksgiving Charity Dinner organized by AmCham on Nov. 20, contributing more than 500 euro to good causes. De Sena and ARCS Fall 2012 Fellow, Max Holleran, attended an end-of-year reception of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission on Dec. 13. ARCS Staff and ABF were invited by the **National Archaeology Museum** on Dec. 14 to the inauguration of a new temporary exhibition on the archaeological site of Deultum-Debelt – the highlight of the exhibition is the bronze head of Septimius Severus, which was restored thanks to an ARCS SPCME Grant. De Sena was invited to the Residence of the US Ambassador for lunch on Dec. 18 for a small number of “cultural ambassadors” in order to address the role and development of culture in Bulgaria and to discuss the degree to which American culture is understood in Bulgaria.

ARCS organized, in cooperation with the National Archaeology Mu-

seum, private viewings of the recently discovered “Sveshtari Treasure”, a hoard of approximately 1.8 kg of gold jewelry found in a Thracian tumulus at Sveshtari. On Monday, Nov. 19 staff members and Trustees of the **America for Bulgaria Foundation** were invited to view the finds; on Tuesday, Nov. 20, ARCS organized a viewing for **US Ambassador Ries** and about 12 staff members of the US Embassy in Bulgaria.

Finally, the Center hosted its first Thanksgiving banquet. On Nov. 22, thirty-four people enjoyed turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, including the entire ARCS Staff and its Fall Fellows, many of the Fall lecturers, Trustee **Julia Stefanova**, ARCS's favorite poet, **Valentin Krustev**, NIAM representatives **Maria Reho** and **Pavlina Ilieva**, executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce **Valentin Georgiev**, and representatives of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, **Desislava Taliokova**, **Ivanka Tzankova** and **Lenko Lenkov**.

## ARCS in the Limelight

ARCS was highlighted on Bulgarian National Radio several times during in Summer and Fall 2012. On August 9, **Emil Nankov**, **Eric De Sena** and **Ancuța De Sena** were interviewed on a variety of topics for the weekly radio broadcast **Graffiti** of the **Horizont Channel**. The three ARCS representatives discussed the state of archaeology in Bulgaria, the role of ARCS as a research institute serving the Balkans and Balkan cuisine. Three weeks later, **Graffiti** host **Svetlana Dicheva** interviewed the founders of ARCS, **Kevin Clinton** and **Nora Dimitrova**. Kevin and Nora recounted their dream of founding the Center and their road to success. ARCS was highlighted on **Radio Sofia** on Sept. 27 – during this hour-long interview for the **Infoholics** program, De Sena discussed the history and role of

American research centers abroad, the role of archaeology in the process of nation-building in the Balkans and his plans for the conference on communications and commerce. **Infoholics** broadcast a live two-hour show from the lecture hall of ARCS on October 27 with a focus on the Communications and Commerce conference held the previous two days. Six people involved in the conference and exhibition were interviewed: **De Sena**, **Kamen Dimitrov**, **Pavlina Ilieva**, **Dimitrina Popova**, **Liliana Simeonova** and **Daniel Weiss**. The interview was aired on November 22 and focused upon

the importance of supporting NGO's. **Iva Bratanova** (World Wildlife Fund), **Latinka Ducheveva** (Centre for Inclusive Learning) and **Monika Pisankaneva** (Workshop for Civic Initiatives) were interviewed with De Sena.



*Radio Sofia transmission from ARCS, Oct. 27, 2012*

ARCS was featured twice in Am-Cham magazine – Sept. 2012 with an article *Raiders of the Lost ARCS: new developments at the American Research Center in Sofia* and Nov. 2012 with an article *Information and merchandise travel hand-in-hand since Alexander the Great*.

ARCS figured into the *US Presi-*

*dential elections*. On October 24, De Sena sat on a panel of Americans and Bulgarians who discussed the Presidential candidates. The event was organized by the **American Chamber of Commerce** and the **US Embassy in Bulgaria** and took place in the National Palace of Culture before an audience of 200 people. Bulgarian Na-

tional television broadcast excerpts of this lively debate. On November 7, Radio Sofia interviewed **De Sena**, **Max Holleran** (ARCS Fall 2012 Fellow) and **George Sidjimkov** (ARCS Trustee) about the re-election of President Obama.

### Fundraising Campaign

Thanks to the America for Bulgaria Foundation, ARCS is on solid financial ground for the next five years; however, we are seeking to be more self-sustainable. Toward this goal, in 2010, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded ARCS a

Challenge grant whereby NEH will provide \$750,000 if ARCS can raise \$2,250,000 by July 2017. ARCS has made good progress toward the Challenge, but still needs to raise a significant amount of money over the next 5 years: \$166,000 each year for the next three years with July 31 deadlines (2013, 2014, 2015) and then \$276,000

in each of the following two years (2016 and 2017). Naturally, if we are successful in raising more than these targets, we will be able to build a more significant endowment. Please visit our donors' page: <http://arcsofia.org/en/page/11-Donors-and-Sponsors-of-ARCS> All donations are tax deductible.

### ARCS recognizes with gratitude the individuals who have made generous financial donations and pledges in support of the Center

- June Allison and Stephen Tracy
- Anonymous
- Kevin Clinton and Nora Dimitrova
- Peter Delev
- Eric and Ancuta De Sena
- Irina Doneff
- John Duffy
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- Annette Merle-Smith
- Ambassador James W. Pardew and Kathy Pardew
- Rachel and Todor Petev
- Suzanne Pisano
- Pietro Pucci
- Michael Putnam
- Lynn Roller
- Donors at San Francisco, CA fundraising event
- SAP Co., CA (matching gift)
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- Diana Stewart
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- Gligor Tashkovich
- Ventsislav Tsachev
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