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Medieval History of Byzantium and of Its Neighbours

The marriages of those born in the porphyry, as members of the Byzantine imperial house, with the princes and princesses of the Slavic countries of the Balkans, are the best prosopographical reflection of the evolution of the relationships between the Empire of the Romans with their immediate neighborhood in the Balkans. During the second half of the Byzantine millennium (10th–15th centuries), these matrimonial alliances increased, with substantially similar numbers as regards marriages with the Bulgarian and the Serbian dynasties, except that the Byzantino-Bulgarian marriages were earlier chronologically, while the Byzantino-Serbian ones were more numerous towards the end of the Empire, occurring right up until the last emperor Constantine XI, himself the offspring of an imperial marriage with a Serbian princess.

Keywords: Marriage, princely, porphyry, Empire, kingdom, dynasty, matrimonial alliance, Slavs, Bulgarian, Serbian, Byzantium, Constantinople

The struggle for Sirmium and for the city of Zemun during the Byzantine-Hungarian wars received significant attention from two of the most important Byzantine authors of Manuel Komnenos' reign, John Kinnamos and Nicetas Choniates. Nicetas Choniates' version of the events includes a spectacular episode occurred at the beginning of the

siege of Zemun. According to Choniates the emperor, mounted on his horse, stroke the city gates with his spear. The paper tries to understand the episode's significance from the chronicler's perspective and to suggest the meaning of the gesture by comparing it with other similar deeds of the Middle Ages.

Keywords: Manuel Komnenos, Byzantine-Hungarian relations, Zemun, siege, gestures of powe

In a letter from 1199 addressed to Innocent III, Lewon I presented himself as *king of all the Armenians*, a title that was copied from the one used by the Armenian catholicos. The union with Rome, established in 1198, was met with opposition in Greater Armenia and the king could not control the Armenian patriarch either, because he resided in Hromkla. Thus, he tried to assume the spiritual authority over all Armenians to avoid any damage done to his ties with Rome and to control the Armenian Church, an action reflected in the use of the title of *king of all the Armenians*.

Keywords: Lewon I, Cilician Armenia, The Armenian Church, King of Armenia, Innocent III.

Ottoman Empire and Southeastern Europe

Among the impressive collection of original Turkish documents kept in the The Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna lies a most interesting 'ahdname (capitulation) obtained during Herman Czernin von Chudenitz's and Cesare Gallo's embassy to Constantinople in 1617. This document, only briefly known so far through a couple of nineteenth-century translations, can be best described as a commercial 'ahdname, drafted on the model of those granted to the Porte's Western commercial partners, and therefore very different from other known Habsburg 'ahdnames, which mainly concerned military and border-related affairs. The present article offers a general survey on the Ottoman capitulatory regime, and an analysis on the historical context in which the 1617 'ahdname was produced. Appendixes containing the document's transliteration, translation and facsimiles are given at the end.

Keywords: diplomacy, Ottoman-Habsburg relations, trade, 'ahdname, diplomatics

> The article encloses a preliminary description of a rare copy of an early Arabic printed book authored by the Metropolitan of Aleppo (and two times Patriarch of Antioch) Athanasios Dabbās, Risāla wağīza tū •a +u kayfiyyat at-tawba wa-l-'i'tirāf wa-fī-mā yalzamu l-mu'tarif wa-lmu'arrif, i.e., Brief epistle that explains how repentance and confession are done and what the one who confesses and the confessor have to do, preserved at Bibliothèque Orientale in Beirut. This is the last book printed in the Aleppo press by Dabbas, in 1711. After a preliminary presentation of the information provided about this book by bibliographers since the beginning of the 19th century, the contents and the visual aspects of the book are discussed. The author's comments address the possible sources of the Arabic text, influences on Dabbās's opinions on repentance and confession, and connections to other similar texts that circulated in the Christian communities of the Near East in Ottoman times. This is a glimpse of one of the topics that is comprised in the European Research Council Advanced Grant (ERC AdG 2019) project TYPARABIC. Early Arabic Printing for the Arab Christians. Cultural Transfers between Eastern Europe and the Ottoman Near-East in the 18th century, which was awarded to the Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest (as Host Institution) and will be conducted by the author of the present article, Ioana Feodorov (as Principal Investigator).

> **Keywords**: Early Arabic printing, Athanasios Dabbās, *Epistle on Repentance and Confession*, Aleppo press, beginning of 18th c., Antim the Iberian, circulation of ideas

Orthodoxy and Modern Greek literature and history

This paper examines the temptations of "worldly entanglement" that the Orthodox Church has faced throughout its history. As the official religion of the Eastern Roman Empire the Orthodox Church while integrated into the imperial power it remained a distinct institution zealous of its spiritual independence. Even though the Church would eventually assume worldly functions under Ottoman rule, its priority still remained the provision of

moral guidance to the faithful through monasticism, education and the example set by martyrdom. The emergence of independent states fragmented the Eastern Church into a series of national churches prone to the divisive ideology of nationalism, an issue that the modern Orthodoxy still struggles with. In considering the question "what is left of Orthodoxy" the paper examines how Orthodoxy can be understood by approaching it as a living tradition of faith and experience, and as a potent force in shaping the human condition.

Keywords: Religion, Christianity, Eastern Roman Empire, Orthodoxy, monasticism, Neomartyrs, nationalism

In Greece, the second half of the eighteenth century tends to be seen as the beginning of the Greek Enlightenment which paved the way for Greek national independence. Analysing literary texts produced by members of Phanariot circles between 1750 and 1800, I argue that their purpose is predominantly entertainment rather than enlightenment. Finally I argue that these texts, which have been marginalized as being banal and as using an excessive number of Turkish loanwords, allow us to gain important insights into the thought-world of elite members of the Orthodox *millet* who did not envisage a national revolution against the Ottoman empire.

Keywords: Phanariots; 18th-century Greek literature; Greek Enlightenment; literature as entertainment; Turkish loanwords in Greek; Orthodox *millet*

Nicolae Mavros (1786–1868), one of the educated high-ranking boyars in Wallachia, was General Inspector of the Danube quarantine (1832–1855) and President of the Archaeological Committee (1864–1868). This study is about Mavros's lifestyle, family, land proprieties, and public carrier. Our research focuses mainly on the networks of family and friends in Wallachia, Moldavia, Russia, and Greece. We have found documents concerning Mavros in various funds held by National Historical Archives in Bucharest and Romanian Academy Library, such as the Metropolis of Ungro-Wallachia, the Chancellorship for Foreign Affairs in Wallachia, the Quarantine Committee and the Ministry of Cults and Public Instruction. We have also used information from the archives of his sons, Ion Cantacuzino and Ion Ghica.

Keywords: Nicolae Mavros, boyar lifestyle, Danube quarantine, archaeology, Wallachia

L'art arménien en Roumanie

The article is devoted to the icon art of Armenians in Romania, who emigrated from Crimea to Moldova in the 14th century. The icons of the Armenian churches of Botoşani, Suceava, Iaşi, Roman, Târgu Ocna, Focşani and other places were studied. Significant collections of Armenian icons are currently kept in the churches and museums of Botoşani and Suceava, at the Dudian Museum of the Armenian Church of the Holy Archangels and at the residence of the Head of the Armenian Diocese of Romania in Bucharest. The icons of Armenians in Romania are still unknown to scientific circles and need to be studied. This is why, since 2014, we have undertaken their study with the aim of clarifying the following questions: their sources, their bases, their relationship with local Armenian and Romanian cultural traditions, technical and artistic languages, their iconographic, stylistic and figurative particularities.

Keywords : Icon art of Armenians from Romania, 16^{th} – 19^{th} c., Moldavia, Botoşani, Bucharest, Armenian and Romanian artistic relationships

Current paper presents the Armenian altar crosses preserved at the Dudian Museum of Armenian Diocese of Romania, Museum of Armenian St. Mary Church in Botosani, and Armenian Churches in Romania. These crosses have never studied before and are being published for the first time. Here are discussed problems of attribution, the iconography and style of images and scenes decorating the altar crosses. The study of these examples is very important, as it includes a lot of new information to expand our perceptions on the decorations and typology of Armenian altar crosses. Also thanks to this research, we could bring together and make a small revue about the Armenian altar crosses in general.

Keywords: Armenians in Romania, Armenian art, Armenian altar crosses, liturgical objects, ritual objects, silver art, Armenian silversmiths

of Constantinople, Armenian silversmiths of Van-Vaspurakan, Constantinople style, Dudian museum, Armenian St. Mary Church in Botosani, Armenian collections in Romania, Art of Armenian communities, Evangelists and Prophets, quadrifole

Empire's Legacy in the Balkans: Romania and Bulgaria in the 20th Century

Proceedings of the session organised in the framework of the 12th International Congress of South-East European Studies (Bucharest, 2–6 September 2019)

Editors: CRISTINA DIAC and ALEXANDRE KOSTOV

Editors' Note

The disappearance of the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires and the territorial changes after the wars of 1912-1918 still raise the question of their legacy in the countries of Southeastern Europe after the end of the First World War. One of the dimensions of this problem relates to the legacy of the two Empires to the rail networks in this region after the Great War. The main purpose of this article is to present the process of building and sharing the various railway lines that form the rail networks of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (RSCS) after 1918. This subject covers the initial period of establishment as well as the subsequent development of railways in the Balkans and surrounding areas. The research deals mainly with the railway history of the Habsburg Empire (from 1867 - Austria-Hungary) and more specifically the networks of Austria (Cisleithanie), Hungary (Transleithanie) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (after 1878). Particular attention is given to the three provinces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire: Croatia-Slavonia, Dalmatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, taking into account provinces and regions such as the Austrian Coast (Küstenland), Batchka, Banat, Transylvania and Bucovina. In addition, the presentation will deal with the Ottoman Empire and more specifically with European Turkey, with the exception of the vassal provinces. The text is divided into three parts which cover the main stages of railway construction and the distribution of the railway networks in the region envisaged between 1830 and 1919/20: a) period 1830–1878; b) period 1878–1912; c) period 1913–1919 / 20.

Keywords: railroad, railway policy, Maurice de Hirsch, Habsburg Empire, The Ottoman Empire, Balkan countries

This article deals with language(s) and politics, more specifically, it aims to discuss the way in which the ability to speak more than one language influenced the political activity of the communist activists in interwar Romania. The linguistic question within the Communist Party of Romania and, in a broader sense, within the communist movement, could be addressed from two perspectives: how the individuals dealt with the language issue and, on the other hand, how the institutions that, altogether, formed the so-called "communist movement" – Communist International with its central and regional bodies, the local parties, the other structures created and driven by Comintern in different parts of the world – managed the linguistic diversity. This article concentrates on the first angle and analyses the methods, decisions, and strategies used by individuals to deal with the linguistic issue.

The paper is organized in two main parts. In the first one, it explains what languages the first communists spoke then it discusses the attitude toward the Romanian language of those communists who didn't speak it natively. **Keywords**: bilingualism, multilingualism, ethnolinguistic nationalism, interwar communism, Comintern studies, language and politics

In the winter of 1933, eighteen-year-old Patrick Leigh Fermor set out on an adventurous walk across Europe, starting in Holland and ending in Constantinople. Decades later he would tell the story of that journey in his books A Time of Gifts and Between the Woods and the Water that would immediately grasp the public attention and ultimately make him the most acclaimed British travel writer of the twentieth century. The final volume of his conceived trilogy The Broken Road: From the Iron Gates to Mount Athos appeared posthumously in 2012, a year after his death. In the course of that journey, Leigh Fermor not only crossed the borders of several countries, but also the borders of two former empires – the Ottoman and the Austro-Hungarian one, the presence of which could still be felt decades after they had ceased their existence. An intelligent and curious observer, Fermor offers interesting examples of this ineffaceable presence. This is most evident in his description of Transylvania, which he considers a part of central Europe and something

quite different from the rest of Romania, and also in his description of Bulgaria, where he finds clear traces of the Ottoman legacy, the crossing of the Danube seen as entering into the Orient. This paper presents and analyzes those examples of imperial legacies in the Balkans in the 1930s. **Keywords**: travel writing, borders, empires, Transylvania, Romania, Bulgaria

This article aims to provide a double-layered analyze. On the one hand, it will present and discuss the instruments used by the communist decisionmakers in charge with the cultural propaganda, focusing the Romanian Institute for the Cultural Relations Abroad (I.R.R.C.S., Romanian abbreviation). In a second layer of analyze, starting from the institutional framework offered by I.R.R.C.S. and from the symbolic capital employed by this institution on the arena of the international cultural relations, this article aims to discuss two different patterns normally used when it comes to assess the efficiency and the effectiveness of the cultural propaganda, and which one suits the Romanian model better. The first method is strictly quantitative, and measures the activities carried on by institution of cultural propaganda, the numbers of it, the type etc. The second, qualitative method, consists of the analyze of the impact and value that activities really brought on the international arena and what the results of that activities were. The motivation for this topic was based on the fact that although it represented a priority for the totalitarian regime, the cultural propaganda is an understudied field of research within the Romanian historiography of the present time.

Keywords: Cultural propaganda, cultural diplomacy, ideology, foreign cultural exchanges, communism

This article aims to discuss the evolution of the pension system in Romania after WWII, in the context of the social security model present in the rest of the socialist countries. Focusing on the Romanian Pension Law of 1966 that was inspired by Nicolae Ceauşescu, the new Communist leader who had been imposed only one year earlier as the general secretary of the Communist Party, one can conclude that the social regulation was indeed very modern. It introduced in the history of

the Eastern European social security systems an idea which, to these days, continues to rule the debate: what the fair ratio between the principle of solidarity and the principle of contribution should be? However, this reform opened the gate for a revision of the principle of solidarity, that will further deepen the tendency to privilege the financial efficiency, a trend which had a negative impact on the retirees' standard of living, and totally discriminated the peasantry.

Keywords: Labour History, Pension Systems, Socialism, Balkans, N. Ceauşescu, Romanian Pensions Law of 1966

We present the initiative put forward by the leaders of Romania at the beginning of the 70s of the 20th century, aiming at the development of diverse collaboration between the Balkan states. This area was considered, traditionally, as a region of strategic interest already by the former Tsarist Empire and, subsequently, by the USSR. So the Moscow rulers had at least reluctantly received these proposals, perceived as attempts by N. Ceauşescu to create a political organization in the region opposed to the interests of other countries. The author undertakes an analysis of the Soviet reaction, supported by the Bulgarian leaders in the attempt to discourage the efforts of the PCR with its government in the direction of the change of the Balkans in an area of collaboration and understanding between peoples of the region.

Keywords: Balkans, Brezhnev, Ceaușescu, Jivkov, collaboration, political relationship, Crimea

In Search of a Useful Past: History as a Resource for the Present

Bulgarian contributions to the Conference organised at the Institute for South-East European Studies (Bucharest, September 2018) Editor: BLAGOVEST NJAGULOV

Presentation

ALEKA STREZOVA (Institute for Historical Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia), The Remembrance of the First World War in Bulgaria ... 309

The text sheds light on different aspects of remembrance of the First

The text sheds light on different aspects of remembrance of the First World War in Bulgaria. Various sources of historical past present the perception of this major event a hundred years later in Bulgaria. The account casts a glance on diverse materials related to the topic as for example well-known historical researches, new sources, governmental initiatives in celebrating the centenary, official narratives and less known sides of the Great War. The report doesn't mean to exhaust the matter, it just represents the existing spirits and the perception of this major event among the Bulgarians. The expose shows the domination of the narrative of bravery, military victories, belligerent enthusiasm, bitterness at the unjust Treaty of Neuilly. Still, a new story line appears, connected to less common topics such as the social trauma, the story of women, the sanitary care etc.

Keywords: First World War, Bulgaria, remembrance, centenary

> Among all other things, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe gave rise to significant changes in the historiography and the memory of the past in general. Topics that have long been carefully covered by ideological silence were brought up to public attention, historical events and whole historical periods became subject of revision and reassessment. The spirit of the "miraculous" 1989 unleashed passionate public interest in the national history of the recent past, as if vocalizing the "silenced" issues and correcting the distorted picture of the past would clear the path for a new future. In this new situation of openness and ideological freedom, the historians were also to face many challenges. Unveiling the dark past implied the difficult task of handling with nationally sensitive issues. The history of the Second World War, which is a turning point in the history of Europe, is full of such delicate and controversial issues. And if in Western Europe the process of talking about the difficult issues related to that period had started in the 1970s and especially in the 1980s, in Eastern Europe that would take place only after the fall of communism. This paper attempts to make a comparative study of the post-communist historiography on the Second World War in Bulgaria and Romania, two countries that shared the common fate of German satellites during the war and then of Soviet satellites in its aftermath, which determined the historical interpretation of the period.

> **Keywords**: historiography, Second World War, Bulgaria, Romania, Holocaust.

Thirty years after the fall of communist rule in Europe, it is still widely believed in Bulgarian society that the regime had its good points. Nearly half of the population cites public security as a major positive, most notably in the area of crime and labor protection. In fact, the secret statistics of that time show a very different picture. For example, the number of homicides varies between 180 and 260 per year, which is 2–2.5 more than today, and the deaths from work-related accidents were between 500–550 or 6–7 times more than the current ones. Declassified documents show that, in order to carry out the production plan, gross violations of labor law and labor safety regulations happened all the time, which were often at the root of many industrial accidents and serious occupational accidents. But due to the fact, that this information was deeply covered by the population, it was unaware of the scale of the problem and, as a result of continued propaganda, a large part of it shares the understanding that communist rule was a time of public security.

Keywords: Myth, Labor Protection, Nostalgia, Communist Era, Bulgaria

Against the background of changes in the media and historical science during the transition to democracy and market economy after the end of the communist regime, the author offers his vision for the presence of history in the media in contemporary Bulgaria. The paper presents some observations and examples on the subject without exhausting it. The media play an important role in the dissemination of historical knowledge and are the terrain for the most significant discussions on current and controversial aspects of Bulgarian history, such as the periods of Ottoman rule and communist regime. The national discourse on the past dominates in the mass media, while critical reflections on national history remain in the background. The explanations are sought in the context of the nation state and in the heritage and present state of historical science. The paper discusses in more detail the case of history on television. As the most representative public tribune of Bulgarian historians nowadays stands out the TV show History.BG broadcast on Bulgarian National Television -Channel 1. The notions of national history offered by many other such TV shows over the last few years are as varied as historical knowledge of the past. The author also draws attention to the problems of the public importance of history and the role of public history, as well to the

relationship between history and journalism as similar disciplines that contribute to a better management of the present and foreseeing the future.

Keywords: Media, History, Historians, Journalists, Bulgari

This paper analyzes the formation of national identity and political state legitimation through the evocations of monumental art in urban environment. The research focuses on an ostensibly unusual combination: a comparison of the Republic of Macedonia and the five former Soviet republics in Central Asia. The goal has been to outline the thematic forms and methods by which the political elite can influence public awareness, in order to legitimize its vision of a new national identity. Formulation of similar elements and trends will contribute to outlining more clearly the model of national legitimation in newly independent post-communist states. Thus defined, the theme is too complex and that is why the object of analysis has been restricted to the monumental architectural artefacts erected in most symbolic places of the capital cities, which synthesizes the historical messages addressed at the nation and the world.

Keywords: National identity, monuments, historical memory, national myths, Timur, Manas, "Skopje 2014", Macedonia, Central Asia

Comptes rendus

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