

## *Abstracts*

*Stavros Christodoulou*

### **Cereal Trade between Black Sea and Greece: From the Archaic until the Early Hellenistic Period**

August 5<sup>th</sup> 2010: Russia reaches the end of what had turned out to be a disastrous summer of drought and fires. The fertile fields of southern Russia, especially in the area of the Black Sea, normally help feed the world; the crops grown in these areas produce millions of tons of wheat, barley and other grains for export. But not that year. The earth is parched and many of the crops have wilted. The result: 20% of the national grain crop has vanished. Vladimir Putin decides that no grain should be exported from Russia, until the end of the summer: a politically wise decision, as the Russians were already facing sharp rise in bread price. Turning the clock twenty four centuries back, we find a public prosecutor –using Lysias’ speech capabilities– arguing that the death penalty should be the punishment of the wholesalers persecuted under the charge of forming a “cartel” and technically rising grain price in Athens. The famous case “*Kata Sitopolon*,” a speech of the notorious Greek orator Lysias against grain merchants in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. BC Athens, is considered the first ever trial against a cartel. And it is surprisingly, even amazingly, similar with the arguments the Greek government used in August 2010 to stop grain price rise.

*Ermal Baze*

### **Historical Data on the Life of Albanian Women in the Late Middle Ages (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries)**

This paper is dedicated to the political and institutional organization as well as to the election of the governing bodies in the commune of Shkodra during the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, observed mainly

through the legal provisions of the juridical medieval book of this city, the *Statutes of Shkodra*. Modeled mainly after the configuration of the Dalmatian towns along Adriatic and under the partial influence of the Slavic–Byzantine area, the *Statutes of Shkodra* constitute a source of irreplaceable value for the “de visu” knowledge of governing and institutional life of the city of Shkodra, north Albania’s capital city from the ancient and medieval times until today.

*Claire Brisby*

**Eugenios Voulgaris and Bulgarian Painters Hristo and Zahari  
from Samokov: Their European Perspective 1760-1852**

The article looks at the role of images in the transmission of western European Enlightenment ideas in the Balkans through study of western prints used by Bulgarian icon-painters active 1760-1850, whose artistic formation was shaped by educational reforms introduced into the Balkans by Eugenios Voulgaris’ Academy on Mount Athos.

The significance of imagery in cultural exchange is assessed in the work of celebrated painters of the Bulgarian National Revival Hristo Dimitrov (c. 1750-1819) and Zahari *zograf* (1810-1853), renowned in their times for artistic expression that was attributed to their European outlooks: Hristo is historically reputed to have been trained in Vienna while Zahari aspired to academic training in St. Petersburg and vaunted his instruction from French painters in Bulgaria. Our enquiry is concerned with defining the painters’ western consciousness in their selection of western sources and adoption of western methods. Focussed assessment of Zahari’s use of a western portrait print of Voulgaris as a model for his pioneering oil-painted self-portrait leads to an analysis of the painters’ awareness of European Enlightenment academic thought as it was disseminated from Voulgaris’ Academy on Mount Athos and influenced their respectively innovative treatments of religious iconography.

*Ioannis D. Stefanidis*

**Fighting in a Foreign Land:  
High Politics and Human Experience  
during the Greek Campaign in Southern Ukraine, 1919**

The participation of Greek ground troops in the Russian Civil War, which lasted 99 days in the first quarter of 1919 and involved more than 23,000 men, was primarily intended to underpin Greek irredentist claims in view of the peace settlement that followed the Great War. It did succeed on that account, but it did not fail to affect the lives of tens of thousands of Greeks who, over the previous century and a half, had settled along the northern shores of the Black Sea. This event has not merited an academic monograph yet, though this is not due to lack of sources; and it has largely remained unknown to the Greek public, which only recently, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, became aware of the continuing presence of a sizeable population with Greek origins or identity in ‘exotic’ places like Odessa, Kherson and Mariupol.

*Artan R. Hoxha*

**Transgressing Modernization (or how to become Visible):  
The Taming of Nature and the Responses in the Countryside  
in Interwar Era Albania**

The early morning of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1927, crowds gathered at the center of the city of Korça, the main urban center of the Southeastern Albania and one of the major cities of the country. At the event were present also prominent politicians, businessmen and other representatives of the cultural life of the interwar era. It was an important moment because that Monday, the private company “Maliqi,” whose seat was in Korça, started the draining of the shallow lake of Maliqi and its surrounding marshlands –this is why it had been baptized with the same name– located some few kilometers north of the city. There were plenty of reasons why to celebrate. This enterprise had for the Albani-

an political elite and nationalists a profound meaning. The draining of that lake would help them to overcome that sense of inferiority injected by country's backwardness and the whole discourse on the assumed inability of the Albanians to develop and modernize. The draining of the lake of Maliq was considered as one of the first steps toward the modernization of the country and its transformation into a European nation.

*Despina-Georgia Konstantinakou*

**Selective Diplomacy: Greece and its World War II Enemies  
at the Beginning of the Cold War**

By the end of World War II, Greece was already involved in a new conflict, the Greek Civil War, which posed the first manifestation of the global Cold War. In the midst of the new conditions that were taking shape on the world stage, Greece was faced with both healing the wounds that the war had inflicted and the rise of its claims, as well as the task of consolidating its position in the everchanging international scene, as the world was divided in two. In this context, Greece was called upon to handle its relations with both its allies in World War II and its enemies, a mission that would prove extremely challenging and would largely be influenced by the new conditions and the alliances formed in view of the emerging Cold War. This article will attempt to outline Greece's relations to its former World War II occupying powers, namely Germany, Italy, and Bulgaria during 1946-49, whilst examining the impact of the civil war, and consequently the Cold War, on the selective diplomacy that Athens decided to follow.

*Georgios Agelopoulos – Eleni Gelani – Georgia Sarikoudi*

**Historical Dynamics and Environmental Changes:  
The Case of Three Villages in North-west Highland Greece**

The study of a landscape is also the study as it is lived and experienced, and the place is the experience of it – with its paths and passages, its squares and mills, its fields, its threshing floors and pastures, its houses with their ovens and the memories all of these carry. The people who mark the landscape give it logical coherence and attribute content to it. In keeping with this perspective, we will focus on the life histories of inhabitants from three villages in the Gramos mountain range in NW Greece. Our research examined the historically-produced social relations and practices that are inlaid in collective and individual time, in an attempt to understand the dynamics of the landscape. Through the locals' memories emerges the representation of local populations that are constantly interacting with the environment, simultaneously and indiscriminately 'intervening' and 'adapting' to it and organizing their lives in accordance with the environment. In short, they are perpetually in motion, as they are shaped by and formed through a metonymic causality relationship they entertain with the landscape.

This paper is based on work conducted as part of a wider research project which studied the landscape not as a static image, but through the dynamics of its changes. It is an interdisciplinary research on the environmental and social history of the landscape in the southern Gramos mountain range.

*Bernardica Milićević*

**Religious Tourism in the Balkans from the Perspective of  
Međugorje Marian Shrine**

A small village located in the heart of Herzegovina has one story of its own. Six young people from the parish of Međugorje on June 26,

1981, on the hill Crnica, in the area called Podbrdo, saw, in their words, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The news of Our Lady's apparition spread very quickly. Pilgrims from the most remote parts of the world come to Međugorje looking for a place for prayer, peace of mind and comfort. The place has no special cultural sights, it is even remote, but still millions of guests have given the special status of a holy place with their arrivals. During these forty years, numerous hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, shops, souvenir shops, and jewelry stores have been built in Međugorje, all for the purpose of satisfying tourist needs. The paper discusses the emergence and development of religious tourism in Međugorje through the life cycle of a tourist destination since its inception in 1981 to this day, when the emergence of the corona virus in March 2020 affected overall tourism in the world. Internet research and the use of secondary data sources, the primarily descriptive-analytical method and the method of theoretical analysis will seek to achieve the purpose of the work, which is the effect the well-organized religious tourism in the tourist destination Međugorje has on the development of the region and the country.