



**AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN SOFIA
NEWSLETTER No. 6, NOVEMBER 2009**

The American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS, www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs), established in 2004, is dedicated to research in the humanities and social sciences and represents a consortium of educational institutions registered in North America. ARCS is a Member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and an Educational Member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria. Thanks to a generous donation by the Packard Humanities Institute, ARCS acquired in early 2008 its permanent home in Sofia, consisting of a four-level building on property of over 16,000 sq. ft.

NEWS IN BRIEF

We are pleased to announce that ARCS has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant in the amount of \$750,000. Such NEH grants are among the most competitive and prestigious awards in the United States.

A major grant from the America for Bulgaria Foundation is supporting library acquisitions and various programs for Bulgarian archaeology: Fellowships for Advanced Doctoral Students affiliated with accredited Bulgarian institutions to do research at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the American Research Institute in Turkey; an Archaeology Program Officer; grants supporting joint U.S.-Bulgarian projects under an International Collaborative Archaeological and Bioarchaeological Research Program; and grants supporting Bulgarian museums and other institutions under a Site Preservation, a Conservation, and a Museum Enhancement Program. In addition, the Foundation is providing support for certain staff positions, fellowships for American graduate students, and other operations of ARCS. For more information about these programs, please contact our recently appointed Archaeology Program Officer, Dr. Emil Nankov, ehn2@cornell.edu.

The America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF) has given ARCS a grant of \$6,000 for the publication of *Communism vs. Democracy: Bulgaria 1944 to 1997*, a chronicle of Bulgaria's recent history by the internationally acclaimed journalist and writer Nassya Kravlevska-Owens. This masterpiece of political prose is a revised and supplemented English edition of the author's best-selling work *Bez Zaglavie* (in Bulgarian), a historical narrative of the Bulgarian transition to democracy,

compared by literary critics to Simeon Radev's classic *Builders of Modern Bulgaria*. The introduction will be written by Professor Mark Kramer, Director of the Project for Cold War Studies at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, an eminent authority on Cold War history. This will be the first publication of ARCS (scheduled for Spring 2010) in a series of monographs on Bulgarian history from antiquity through the modern age.

May 28, 2009. A group of students from the University of Alaska (Anchorage), led by Professor Christine Hanson on an educational trip to Bulgaria, the Republic of Macedonia, Greece and Turkey, visited the ARCS headquarters and met with Professor Kevin Clinton, Chair of the ARCS Managing Committee, and Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, ARCS Associate Academic Director.

June 4, 2009. Mr. Marshall Lee Miller, a Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, and Dr. Theodossiev were welcomed at the Istanbul Center of the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) by Dr. Antony Greenwood, ARIT Director, with whom they discussed various opportunities for collaboration. Mr. Miller visited also the Ankara Center of ARIT.

June 5–12, 2009. Dr. Theodossiev accompanied the group of students from the University of Alaska on their trip in Turkey and Bulgaria. They toured a number of monuments and museums in Istanbul, Sozopol (ancient Apollonia), Nesebar (ancient Mesambria) and Veliko Tarnovo, the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.

June 19, 2009. H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Keating, Ambassador of Ireland to Bulgaria, visited ARCS and had a cordial meeting with Professor Clinton and Dr. Nora Dimitrova, Director of the United States Office of ARCS.

June 24, 2009. Dr. Theodossiev attended the General Assembly Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria. The meeting was followed by a Farewell Reception in honor of the U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Alexander Karagiannis and the Counselor for Press and Culture, Ms. Katherine Ingmanson, celebrating the completion of a very successful mission to Bulgaria.

June 26, 2009. The U.S. Embassy Second Secretary for Cultural and Educational Affairs, Ms.

Sherry Keneson–Hall, and the Cultural Affairs Assistant, Ms. Ana Todorcheva, visited ARCS and met with Professor Clinton, Dr. Dimitrova and Dr. Theodossiev, and discussed possibilities for collaboration.

June 27, 2009. Kevin Clinton and Nora Dimitrova took part in a trip to Rila Monastery, organized by H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Keating and the Irish Embassy. The purpose of the trip, attended by many Bulgarian and foreign dignitaries, was to pay homage to the memory of James David Bouchier (1850–1920), the prominent Irish journalist and life-long friend of Bulgaria, who was granted the rare honor to be buried in the immediate vicinity of the Bulgarian holy of holies, the magnificent Rila Monastery. Born in Limerick, Ireland, James Bouchier worked as the Balkan correspondent for *The Times* and lived in Sofia from 1892 to 1915. He defended Bulgaria's position against what he perceived to be unfair clauses in the treaties following the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913 and World War I. In his entire career as Balkan correspondent, Bouchier expressed his affection and support for Bulgaria and its people and treated with humanity and justice many issues of Balkan politics of the period. Mr. Keating gave a moving speech recounting Bouchier's achievements and the Bulgarians' love for him. Sadly Bouchier, as well as many American and European humanists who helped Bulgaria on numerous occasions before and after its liberation in 1878, were nearly forgotten during the communist era of massive anti-western propaganda. Now a picturesque and bustling boulevard in Sofia proudly bears Bouchier's name.

June 30, 2009. Dr. Petia Kostadinova, Assistant Director of the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida and Institutional Representative on the ARCS Managing Committee, visited ARCS and met with Dr. Theodossiev. They discussed possibilities for future scholarly projects.

July 17, 2009. Mr. Frank L. Bauer, President of the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF), Ms. Desislava Taliokova, Executive Director of ABF, and Mr. Lenko Lenkov, a Program Director of ABF, toured ARCS and had fruitful discussions with Dr. Theodossiev.

August 13, 2009. Dr. Theodossiev gave lectures on ancient Thrace for the participants in the Fulbright International Summer Institute, kindly supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation and held in the quaint town of Tryavna.

August 13–14 and 19, 2009. Dr. Emil Nankov, ARCS Archaeology Program Officer, visited Debel (ancient Deultum) and Nicopolis ad Istrum. He met with Krasimira Kostova, Director of

the Museum of History at Sredets, in charge of Debel, and the Director of Excavations at Nicopolis ad Istrum, Dr. Pavlina Vladkova. He reviewed with them projects of ARCS and ABF for site preservation and conservation.

August 20, 2009. Ms Deborah Ash, U.S. Embassy Vice-Consul, visited ARCS and met with Dr. Theodossiev and Mr. Hristo Alexiev, ARCS Library Assistant.

September 5, 2009. Mr. Stephen Steinbeiser, Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS), had a productive meeting at ARCS with Dr. Nankov and Mr. Alexiev.

September 7, 2009. Dr. Nankov, Mr. Alexiev and the ARCS Fellows attended a public event at the American Corner at the Sofia City Library, where they met with Mr. Ken Moskowitz, the U.S. Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs.

September 9, 2009. A research group of students from Drexel University led by Professor Joel Oestreich visited ARCS and met with the Fellows and staff. Professor Kostadin Grozev from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" welcomed the guests, and Mr. Alexiev talked about ARCS and its mission. A modest reception followed.

September 11 and November 27, 2009. Mr. Marshall Lee Miller, a Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF), met with Dr. Theodossiev to discuss the progress of the archaeology projects supported by ABF.

September 21, 2009. Dr. Nankov and Mrs. Valeria Bineva attended a dinner hosted by Mr. Ken Moskowitz, the U.S. Embassy Counselor of Public Affairs, and engaged in a cordial discussion with Bulgarian scholars present at the event.

October 26, 2009. Ambassador James Pardew, ARCS Trustee, visited the new building of ARCS and met with Dr. Theodossiev, the staff, and the Fellows.

November 2, 2009. Ambassador Pardew and Dr. Theodossiev discussed possibilities for Bulgarian-American collaboration in the field of archaeology with Dr. Lyudmil Vagalinski, Assistant Director of the National Archaeological Institute with Museum.

November 4, 2009. Mr. Lenko Lenkov, a Program Director of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, met with Dr. Theodossiev and outlined various projects and activities of common interest.

November 9, 2009. The 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, was honored by ARCS via the launch of the memorial website <http://victimsofcommunism.bg/>, a virtual (and eventually printed) encyclopedia of the victims of

communism in Bulgaria. The creation of the website, which is intended to become a major historical resource for future scholars, has been supported by ARCS officers Kevin Clinton, Nora Dimitrova, Hristo Alexiev, and P.R. representative Greta Nedialkova. Professor Georgi Markov and his brother Dyanko Markov, whose historical expertise, erudition, and fearless dedication to revealing the truth about the communist regime have inspired generations of democratic-minded Bulgarians, entrusted to the library of ARCS their substantial archive of documentary evidence gathered in the course of over 50 years. Hristo Alexiev has been working on digitizing the archive and entering information into the website database.

November 12, 2009. Dr. Nankov, our Archaeology Program Officer, presented the archaeology programs supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation at a meeting held at the National Archaeological Institute with Museum (NAIM). The event was organized with the kind assistance of Dr. Lyudmil Vagalinski, Assistant Director of NAIM. Over 50 Bulgarian archaeologists from different institutions in Sofia and the country attended the meeting.

November 30, 2009. Dr. Theodossiev attended the opening of a political cartoon exhibit at the American Corner at the Sofia City Library. He met with Ms. Sherry Keneson-Hall, the U.S. Embassy Second Secretary for Cultural and Educational Affairs, and with Professor Mark Kramer, Director of the Project for Cold War Studies at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. Later Dr. Theodossiev participated in a meeting of the Bulgarian Alumni of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, gathered by H.E. Mr. Karel van Kesteren, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bulgaria. At the meeting, Dr. Theodossiev informed Bulgarian scholars about the programs of ARCS. On the same day, Dr. Nankov attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of the Bulgarian Archaeologists at the National Archaeological Institute with Museum and discussed possibilities for collaboration with the Directors of the Excavations at Debelt (ancient Deultum).

ANNUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

We are delighted to welcome our current Fellows: Jeremy Ott from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, Nicholas Grossenbacher from the University of Washington, and Shannon Martino from the University of Pennsylvania. Their enthusiasm, scholarly curiosity and friendliness have been greatly appreciated.

The Fall Program included the following lectures from leading Bulgarian experts, to whom we extend our warmest gratitude:

1. Dr. Krum Bacvarov, National Archaeological Institute with Museum: "The Prehistory of Jar Burial Tradition"
2. Professor Peter Dimitrov, New Bulgarian University: "The Thracian Language: Epigraphics and Linguistics"
3. Dr. Maya Vassileva, Center for Thracian Studies: "On the Fringes of the Greek World: The Case of the Thracian Culture"
4. Professor Peter Delev, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "History of Ancient Thrace"
5. Mr. Evgeni Paunov, Cardiff University: "From *Koine* to *Romanitas*: Numismatic Evidence for the Roman Expansion along the Lower Danube (Moesia and Thrace, ca. 168 BC – AD 45)"
6. Dr. Lyudmil Vagalinski, National Archaeological Institute with Museum: "Light Industry on the Roman Lower Danube: The Case of Lime Production"
7. Professor Valeri Kolev, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "The Road to Bulgarian Independence, 1878–1908"
8. Professor Evelina Kelbetcheva, American University in Bulgaria: "Communist and Post-Communist Monuments in Bulgaria"
9. Dr. Maria Gyurova, National Archaeological Institute with Museum: "Towards an Understanding of Early Neolithic Populations: A Flint Perspective from Bulgaria"
10. Professor Alexander Nikolov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "The Cumans and Vlachs in Mediaeval Bulgaria"
11. Professor Kostadin Grozev, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "Bulgaria and the USA during the Cold War"
12. Dr. Maria Manolova, Archaeological Museum in Varna: "The Bulgarian Mediaeval Town"
13. Professor Boyan Dumanov, New Bulgarian University: "The Search for *Foederati* on the Lower Danube. An Archaeological Perspective"
14. Professor Chavdar Kirilov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski": "Economy and the End of the Late Antique Settlement Pattern in the North Balkans"

FALL TERM TRIPS

(October 5–10, October 27 – November 1;
for place names, see map on p. 16)

The fall term trips were attended by Jeremy Ott, Nicholas Grossenbacher, and Shannon Martino. Thanks to the generous support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation the trips were extended to a large number of sites in Bulgaria and Greece. The first trip, led by Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, started with Hisar (ancient Diocletianopolis) where we visited the Late Antique monuments: fortification walls, residence, amphitheater, baths, peristyle house and tomb with mosaic floor. We toured next two Early Hellenistic Thracian tombs: the royal tomb of Seuthes III in Golyamata Kosmatka Tumulus at Shipka and the replica of the famous painted tholos tomb in Kazanlak; the Museum of History 'Iskra' in Kazanlak; and the important

prehistoric settlement mounds at Karanovo and Dyadovo. In the town of Nova Zagora we visited the Museum of History. Veselin Ignatov, archaeologist in the Museum, showed us a Thracian tumulus from the Roman period (located near Karanovo) and a well-preserved chariot found *in situ* during recent excavations.

In Stara Zagora (ancient Augusta Traiana) the Fellows were greatly impressed by the collections in the new building of the Regional Museum of History, which displays an original Roman street on its ground floor. They also visited the ancient agora and the southern gate of Augusta Traiana. Georgi Iliev from the museum gave a guided tour of the remains of monumental buildings from the 4th – 5th centuries AD, with their richly decorated mosaic floors. The group then toured the Neolithic Settlement Museum in Stara Zagora.

The next stop was Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria (ancient Philippopolis). We saw monuments from the Hellenistic period (the fortification wall on Nebet Tepe), the Roman and Late Antique periods (agora; bouleterion; monumental building with mosaic floor, preserved with the support of the U.S. Embassy; Early Christian basilica; stadium; theater; cistern; fortification wall), and the Mediaeval period (fortification wall and Hisar Kapia gate). We also paid a visit to the Orthodox Church St. Constantine and St. Elena, the Catholic Cathedral St. Ludovicus, the Dzhumaya Mosque, the Atanas Krastev House–Museum, and enjoyed a walking tour along the lovely cobble-stone streets of the Plovdiv Old Town.

The next landmarks on the agenda were the Regional Museum of History in Pazardzhik and the Museum of History in Gotse Delchev, both with substantial archaeological collections, and the Roman town of Nicopolis ad Nestum, situated near the village of Garmen, SW Bulgaria. Hasan Hadzhyski, deputy mayor of the municipality, treated us to a tour of the Roman and Late Antique monuments in the ancient town.

In Greece the Fellows started with a visit to Philippi and its significant Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine sites (theater, sanctuaries, Christian basilicas, the Octagon, agora, palaestra, Bishop's Residence, Balneum, etc.). In Kavala they stopped at the Archaeological Museum, which featured a recently opened exhibition. The next town on our route was Amphipolis with its Archaeological Museum, a Hellenistic barrel-vaulted tomb, fortification walls, Roman building complex, and Early Christian basilicas. Beautiful Thessaloniki impressed us with the collections at the Archaeological and Byzantine Museums, the agora, the Arch and Rotunda of Galerius, the Agios Demetrios Church, the Agia Sophia Church, the White Tower, and other noteworthy

landmarks. In Vergina we visited the Early Hellenistic Macedonian royal tombs in Megali Toumba Tumulus and the monumental Early Hellenistic Rhomaios Tomb. The first trip ended with visits to the Archaeological and Byzantine Museums in Veria, both with splendid collections.

The second trip, led by Dr. Theodossiev and Dr. Maria Manolova from the Archaeological Museum in Varna, started with a visit to the Regional Museum of History in Vratsa (NW Bulgaria), displaying the remarkable Thracian silver treasure from Rogozen. Dr. Nartsis Torbov, archaeologist in the museum, led the Fellows to the Late Antique and Mediaeval fortress Vratitsa, located near the town. Next was the Regional Museum of History in Gabrovo (Central Bulgaria), on the north slope of the Balkan mountain range, where Rosen Iosifov and Galina Ileva kindly gave us a guided tour. We stopped also at the Late Antique fortress of Gradishte near Gabrovo.

In Veliko Tarnovo, a town with breathtaking views and charming houses, we toured the monumental remains of the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom as well as the Archaeological Museum. Statko Statev from the Museum led us through the expansive remains of the Roman town Nicopolis ad Istrum near Veliko Tarnovo. The next stop on our journey was the significant Mediaeval fortified settlement at Cherven. In Ruse, a city on the Danube with fascinating history, architecture, and culture, the Fellows visited the Roman town Sexaginta Prista and the Regional Museum of History. In Razgrad they visited the Roman town Abritus and the Regional Museum of History and enjoyed an informative tour by Galena Radoslavova, archaeologist at the Museum.

The next landmark was Veliki Preslav, the second capital of the First Bulgarian Kingdom, and its Archaeological Museum. In Shumen (NE Bulgaria) the group saw the Late Antique and Mediaeval fortress located above the town and the Regional Museum of History, where Tihomir Tihov kindly gave us a guided tour. Pliska, the first capital of the First Bulgarian Kingdom, and its on-site Archaeological Museum were next, followed by Provadiya and its Museum of History. Nikolai Hristov, Director of the Museum, proudly showed us the prehistoric settlement mound and the prehistoric salt-works. Devnya impressed our group with the Roman town of Marcianopolis and the Museum of the Mosaics, where we were met by Hristo Kuzov from the Archaeological Museum in Varna. In the beautiful Black Sea city of Varna (ancient Odessos) we toured the Roman Thermae, the Early Byzantine Syrian Monastery, and the Archaeological Museum, part of whose fantastic collection of prehistoric gold is currently on exhibit at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in New York, and was featured in a recent article in the *New York Times*, which has stimulated great interest.

The Black sea town of Nesebar impressed the Fellows with its fortification walls of Ancient and Byzantine Mesambria, its splendid churches, and Archaeological Museum. Next on our journey was the Late Roman Tomb at Pomorie (ancient Anchialos). In Burgas, the second major Black Sea town in Bulgaria after Varna, we visited the Archaeological Museum, where Dr. Martin Gyuzelev and Miroslav Klasnakov gave us a guided tour. Dr. Gyuzelev accompanied us further south and showed us the Late Antique and Mediaeval fortress Poros near Burgas, the Archaeological Museum in Sozopol (ancient Apollonia), and the cemetery of Apollonia. At the Museum in Kiten (SE Bulgaria, ancient Urdoviza), Dr. Hristina Angelova from the Center for Underwater Archaeology gave an inspiring lecture. The next stop was the Roman town Deultum near the village of Debel. We concluded our trip with a visit to the massive remains of the Hellenistic, Roman and Late Antique town of Kabyle, located near the homonymous modern village.

2010-11 FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

Each academic year, the American Research Center in Sofia, Bulgaria offers three programs with accompanying fellowships: a 9-month program for the period September-May; a Fall term program for the period September-November; and a Spring term program for the period February-April. ARCS hosts the programs' lectures and seminars, organizes related trips, and facilitates opportunities for taking Bulgarian and other Balkan language classes, logistical support, and access to local libraries, museums, and other educational institutions. Details about previous programs can be found in our Newsletters, available on the ARCS website.

1. Those interested in the 9-month program (only for graduate students) are expected to participate in the ARCS academic program during both the Fall and the Spring term and devote the rest of the time to independent research and travel. The content of the Fall and Spring Programs is described below.

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

research in local libraries and optional trips. The participants are expected to attend the entire program. They will choose a topic on which they will prepare an oral presentation at the end of first half of the program. During the second half of their stay, participants are expected to carry out independent research dedicated to their special fields and/or dissertation topics. The program engages the participants with eminent local scholars in the study of Bulgarian (and to a certain extent, Balkan) history and civilization in their continuity and facilitates specialized research in local institutions.

3. The Spring Term Program is intended for graduate and advanced undergraduate students, teachers and scholars, who are interested in the history of religion in Bulgaria from antiquity to the 20th century, including ancient religion, Christianity (Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and other Christian faiths and movements), Judaism, and Islam. The term of the program is from the first Monday of February to the last Saturday of April. The first part of the program consists of lectures and seminars by local experts, and the second part of the program includes independent research in local libraries and trips to famous Bulgarian religious sites. The participants are expected to attend the entire program. They will choose a topic on which they will prepare an oral presentation at the end of first half of the program. The second half of the program includes independent research in local libraries and trips to famous Bulgarian monasteries and churches (many of which are part of the world's cultural heritage).

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION:

All applicants need to submit a completed application form (available to download on our website). Graduate and advanced undergraduate students at educational institutions registered in North America, regardless of their citizenship, are eligible for fellowships. Students with partial support or without support from ARCS can apply for alternative sources of funding. Faculty members at these institutions are welcome to participate in the programs or part thereof, but are not eligible for fellowships.

Graduate Students: Please submit a project proposal (up to three double-spaced pages) describing how participation in the ARCS Fall/Spring or 9-month program will serve your academic interests and/or dissertation research. The proposal, together with the application form, a CV, copies of official transcripts from each graduate institution you have attended, and two letters of reference (sent separately) from professors who are familiar with your academic work, should be sent electronically to the Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Professor Kevin Clinton, kmcl@cornell.edu.

Advanced Undergraduate Students: Please submit a project proposal (up to three double-spaced pages) describing how participation in the ARCS Fall/Spring program will serve your academic interests. The proposal, together with the application form, a CV, copies of official transcripts from each undergraduate institution you have attended, and two letters of reference (sent separately) from professors who are familiar with your academic work, should be sent electronically to the Chair of the Fellowship Committee, Professor Kevin Clinton, kmcl@cornell.edu.

Undergraduate students have the option to be given an examination and write a term paper at the end of the program if they need to receive credits for the program from their home institutions. ARCS does not grant credit, but can issue certificates of participation, and the students' home institutions can then confer credits based on the students' examinations and term papers.

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

Application deadline: All application materials must be sent by February 15th. The candidates will receive notification by April 1st.

FELLOWSHIPS

ARCS plans to offer at least one 9-month fellowship for the period September-May; at least three Fall and Spring term fellowships. The fellowships will include a monthly stipend; in addition, ARCS will pay for accommodation, on-site language instruction, and travel expenses within the academic program. Travel expenses between North America and Bulgaria and meals in Bulgaria are not included.

ESTIMATED COST

Applicants who have been accepted without a fellowship are welcome to look for alternative sources of funding: the total cost of the programs for participants from member institutions is estimated as \$10,000 for the 9-month program and \$5,000 for either the fall or the spring semester program. This estimate is based on the assumption that the participants will reside at ARCS. Participants from non-member institutions will be charged an additional fee of \$100 per month.

ARCS SUMMER SESSION 2010

The American Research Center in Sofia (www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs) is sponsoring a **three-week summer session on Bulgarian history and culture**. The session will consist of lectures at the American Research Center in Sofia with visits to sites in and near Sofia and historical and cultural excursions throughout Bulgaria. Lectures and site reports will be given by leading experts from Bulgarian universities and museums. Preliminary schedule:

12 June: Arrival in Sofia.
 13 June: Walking Tour of Sofia.
 14 June: Morning: 1/ Lecture on Bulgarian Prehistory; 2/ Lecture on Bulgaria in Antiquity. Afternoon: Visit to the Archaeological Museum.
 15 June: Morning: 1/ Lecture on Mediaeval Bulgaria; 2/ Lecture on Bulgaria in the Ottoman Period. Afternoon: Visit to the National Museum of History and the Boyana Church.
 16 June: Morning: 1/ Lecture on Bulgaria between 1878 And 1944; 2/ Lecture on Communist and Post-Communist Bulgaria. Afternoon: showing a documentary; visit to the Ethnographical Museum.
 17 June: Northwest Bulgaria: Vratsa, Ulpia Oescus.
 18 June: Veliko Tarnovo, Nicopolis ad Istrum, Cherven.
 19 June: Ruse, Sboryanovo.
 20 June: Pliska, Preslav, Shumen.
 21 June: Marcianopolis, Varna.
 22 June: Balchik, Kaliakra, Nesebar.
 23 June: Burgas, Sozopol, Debelt, Kabyle.
 24 June: Augusta Traiana, Kazanlak.
 25 June: Plovdiv, Hisar.
 26 June: Koprivshtitsa, Return To Sofia.
 27 June: Rest.
 28 June: Kyustendil, Rila Monastery, Blagoevgrad.
 29 June: Bansko, Nicopolis ad Nestum.
 30 June: Melnik, Sandanski.
 1 July: Return To ARCS.
 2-3 July: Free Program.
 4 July: Independence Day Dinner.
 5 July: Departure.

The program is open to graduate and advanced undergraduate students, high-school and college teachers, and other scholars with a serious interest in Bulgarian history and culture. The total cost for participation not including international travel is \$2,000 (full room and board, use of research facilities, local travel, and lectures). Applications may be downloaded on our website and should be returned by e-mail to Dr. Emil Nankov (ehn2@cornell.edu) no later than 15 February 2010. Applicants need to submit also a statement of interest (up to three pages), a CV, and, in the case of student applicants, two letters of recommendation (sent separately by e-mail). A limited number of grants to cover part of the participation fees will be available to the student applicants, to be awarded on the basis of merit.

The approved participants will receive notification by 15 March 2010. The participation fee and a photocopy of a valid medical insurance card will be due by 15 April 2010.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ROLE OF
SOVIET ARCHAEOLOGY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES IN
BULGARIAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Shannon Martino
University of Pennsylvania

Political and social boundaries are often a deterrent to comparative archaeological research and sometimes comprise difficult formal or informal permission mechanisms resulting in some materials being all but inaccessible. Perhaps nowhere are these boundaries more strongly felt than in the Balkans/Southeast Europe, with approximately twelve countries and as many languages. Having spent three months in Bulgaria this year on a fellowship at the American Research Center in Sofia, I can both personally relate what working in one Balkan country is like and speak to some of the historical and current political issues that have been made known to me through conversations with Bulgarian archaeologists and my own preliminary research.

Though the Balkan countries appear to have strict national and cultural boundaries, such niceties are mostly the domain of cartographers; for instance, there are still some areas in Bulgaria where Turkish and, rarely, Greek are spoken. The Pomak group is a particularly interesting example for its mixture of cultural traditions. Though their origins and lifestyle are essentially Bulgarian, they are part of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria. My first brief introduction to this group was through one of the ARCS trips. There are also many borders in the Balkans which remain contested to this day, especially when it comes to the Republic of Macedonia.

Until recently, however, little research was done on the connections among the region's cultures, modern or ancient, and certainly little research that Western scholars could obtain or read. Most publications discussed the finds from single sites (and not all of the finds at that) or were written in Bulgarian and thus ignored by most Western scholars. These publications, though, sometimes represent all the information that remains of an early excavation in Bulgaria and many of these volumes can only be found in Bulgaria. It was for this reason that much of my work in Bulgaria was done in the libraries of the National Archaeological Institute and ARCS. Before I came to Bulgaria, I never imagined that I would gather as many essential articles and books to read or that the idea for an article would come from a lecture at the American Research Center.

The lack of comparative studies in the Balkans extends to archaeological research and, even setting aside the antagonistic relationship that some countries still have towards each other, some of the fault for the lack of such studies has its roots in Soviet practices, including Soviet archaeological theory and methodology. Past comparative studies were further hindered by a general lack of communication both within and without the region. For example, Whittle notes in his book *Europe in the Neolithic* that though there were many post-war excavations in Southeast Europe, few were published due to "military and political sensitivities".

Though Bulgaria, like former Czechoslovakia, adopted national communism or Stalinism in what Carey and Raciborski in their 2004 paper "Postcolonialism: A Valid Paradigm for the Former Sovietized States and Yugoslavia?" describe as an attempt at "autonomy within the Soviet sphere", certain restrictions were still placed on academics. One in particular was the necessity to join the communist party and write along party lines in order to hold a position at an educational or research institution. According to Atanasova, in the 2004 article "Lyudmila Zhivkova and the Paradox of Ideology and Identity in Communist Bulgaria", "Bulgarian communist rulers and their superiors in Moscow defended the imposition of the Stalinist straitjacket in the sphere of culture by claiming that they were promoting the great communist ideal of creating the universal 'new Soviet man'." One of the very first examples of Soviet censorship occurred as soon as the new regime took over towards the end of World War II. Gurdev, in his online article "125 Godini ot Rozhdenieto na Bogdan Filov", describes how the Soviets sentenced Bogdan Filov, a Prime Minister in the Kingdom of Bulgaria, to death and banned all his archaeological writings from use in scholarly publications (unless he went unnamed) until the 1970s; his publications even became difficult to find.

A later example is the case of Lyudmila Zhivkova, who played a very important role in the development of Bulgarian attitudes towards their cultural heritage. However, Western scholars rarely mention her in their studies of Bulgarian history. She was the only daughter of Todor Zhivkov, the longest lasting communist party leader and head of state in Bulgaria, and was herself once head of the Commission on Science, Culture and Art. Yet even she was not free to eschew Marxist agendas. Atanasova explains how Stoyan Mihailov, then a secretary for ideology in the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, had to convert any of her non-Marxist writings into the required Marxist form.



The University of Alaska Anchorage group at the White Tower in Thessaloniki



Visiting Nicopolis ad Nestum, SW Bulgaria



The Fellows at the Thracian tumulus at Karanovo, noted for its chariot and aristocratic burial of the Roman period



ARCS Fellows taking photos of the impressive remains of Philippi



The Roman stadium in Philippopolis



The ARCS group at Amphipolis



In front of Megali Toumba in Vergina



At the agora of Nicopolis ad Istrum



The Archaeological Museum in Veria



At the windy gate of Mesambria on the Black Sea coast



The Regional Museum of History in Vratsa, NW Bulgaria



Visiting ancient Kabyle

Perhaps the first time that archaeology was specifically tied to politics in the former Soviet Union was in the late 1930s. Bulkin, Klejn and Lebedev, in their article "Attainments and Problems of Soviet Archaeology", state that the sovereignty of the nations within the USSR was felt to be threatened and in response, Soviet scholarship focused on promoting "national self-consciousness and the expression of national pride and the fostering of the best indigenous traditions". The past was now a rich source of ethnic groups "peopled by 'our forebears', the ancestors of the Slavs, Balts, Finno-Ugrians, Iranians, Armenians, Germans, Turks and others". According to Bulkin, Klejn and Lebedev, "the officially sanctioned Soviet conception of an ethnos, long championed by Y. V. Bromlei among others, can be characterized as primordialist or essentialist; i.e., attachment to an ethnic group was based on objective, relatively durable, and fixed criteria, such as language, racial group, dress, house forms, cuisine, and other cultural traditions or time-honored ways of doing things". By defining these ethnic groups, both past and present, Soviet archeologists, historians, and politicians were able to define the borders of that group's habitation. Carey and Raciborski state that minorities within the modern defined ethnic areas, when identified, were either oppressed, as pointed out by the 1975 Helsinki Accords, or relocated to other areas. In Bulgaria, those with "non-Bulgarian" names were forced to change them in the mid 1980s (The Economist Newspaper, February 2, 1985). Can and Todorov, in their 2004 paper "Turks of Bulgaria: Assimilation Policy and Linguistic Oppression", noted that in March 1990, following the deposition of Todor Zhivkov and subsequent return of some Bulgarian Turks to Bulgaria, people were allowed to reassume their Turkish and Arabic names through the Names of Bulgarian Citizens Act; this act still specifies which names can be given to a child.

According to Kohl in the 1998 article "Nationalism and Archaeology: On the Constructions of Nations and the Reconstructions of the Remote Past", the Soviet designation of administrative units based upon the identification of specific ethnic groups and nationalist agendas went hand in hand with studies of ethnogenesis generally promulgated by Soviet archaeologists. As a side note, in the 1974 book *Bibliografiya na balgarskata arheologiya, 1879-1966*, which indexes Bulgarian archaeological publications until 1966, 34 pages are devoted to studies of the ethnogenesis of one group of people or another. On the one hand, ethnogenesis attempted to tie contemporary cultures with ancient ones, often giving credence to the territorial claims of contemporary cultural groups. On the other hand, the Soviet practice of cultural historical archaeology encouraged a proliferation of toponyms for the area's ancient cultures, such that different administrative units

could boast their own particular cultural heritage. The Chalcolithic Gumelnița-Kodzhadermen-Karanovo VI complex typifies the ideological battles concerning heritage in Balkans. It has been suggested that rather than having a single name for this culture, the three names (the first, Romanian) allow different authors to pose any one of them as the developmental center. Valeria Bineva posed the site Sveti Kirilovo as perhaps the best example, in terms of the number of names a site can bear. This Bronze Age site has been alternatively known as Kirilovo, Sveti Sveti Kiril i Metodievo, and Kiril i Metodievo.

The interrelations implied by the necessity of creating cultural complexes in archaeological literature are still overlooked in this post-Soviet era, often due to prevailing misapprehensions that only publications in certain languages are scholarly. This is particularly true for studies in the Black Sea region of the former Soviet territories and Turkey, and is partially illustrated by the fact that few detailed maps of the western Black Sea depict all the surrounding countries. Furthermore, in almost every text the Bosphorus is seen as a political and cultural divide between both ancient and modern Eastern Europe and Asian Turkey. Even where it is not viewed as a strict divide, only the most western part of Turkey is included, despite the well-known intermingling of Eastern European and Turkish cultures.

The particular need to promote this divide that Bulgarians seem to feel is perhaps due to what some have termed the Bulgarian inferiority complex. One aspect of this complex is an aspiration to legitimize Bulgaria as being on the same cultural footing as the other European countries. Atanasova identifies "the two most powerful phenomena of Bulgarian history in the twentieth century" as "the Soviet system and the way it operated in Eastern Europe...[and] a national identity defined by contradictory features that include but are not confined to, the often-cited 'inferiority complex'." Lyudmila Zhivkova worked hard to reverse this internal perception, including commissioning "publications whose sole aim was to promote a new and positive interpretation of Bulgarian history and character." Other activities meant to promote Bulgarian national pride included festivals, such as the 1300 years celebration to commemorate the founding of the First Bulgarian Kingdom. Such festivals were often justified using archaeological evidence.

Bailey in his 1998 article "Bulgarian Archaeology: Ideology, Sociopolitics, and the Exotic" argued that the closeness of archaeology and politics in Bulgaria continued even into the late 1990s: "Bulgarian archaeology itself is an active sociopolitics and ideology: it is not a passive tool of socio-political, nationalist, totalitarian, or other state-level political structures. Bulgarian

archaeology's long-established position as a socio-political ideology is one of the conditions which makes it appear exotic to Western eyes."

Given the strong historical ties between government and archaeology in Bulgaria, it is not surprising that these connections exist today. One can hardly argue, however, that other countries are entirely immune to the effects of politics in archaeology. Furthermore, just as not all Soviet archaeology was politically motivated, neither is all Bulgarian archaeology so motivated. With the ever expanding nature of Bulgarian archaeology and its gradual opening up to Western scholars, this situation is likely to improve even further. First, Western scholars will be able to access more materials and therefore be able to balance any negative view of Bulgarian archaeology with knowledge of its many positive aspects. Second, scholars foreign to Bulgaria will generally gain a clearer impression of the richness and depth of Bulgarian archaeological artifacts and publications. Having so gained an appreciation for Bulgarian archaeology, perhaps more of the badly-needed funds for research and publication will flow into Bulgaria, allowing Bulgarian archaeologists to focus on the synthesis of materials that time and money rarely allow currently.

It is harder to tell if the relationship between Turkish and Bulgarian scholars is on the mend. A lot of enmity stems from the shared history of these two countries, and the fact that they speak quite different languages does not help the situation. Additionally, if Bulgaria is, as Bailey says, considered to be an exotic country in the eyes of westerners, Turkey is even more so. However, some Bulgarian scholars do work with Turkish colleagues, predominantly prehistorians. After having personally examined so many prehistoric terracotta figurines in both Turkey and Bulgaria and beginning to compare other aspects of their material culture, it is clear to me that much lies in the vaults of Bulgarian museums that has yet to be rediscovered, and these finds can bear strongly on past relations in the Black Sea region.

With the help of the American Research Center and the generous support of several colleagues I was able to navigate the museum systems and libraries in Bulgaria and make some important headway in my research. ARCS was a wonderful jumping off point and the lectures and Bulgarian language classes they provided were invaluable. I would like to particularly thank: Hristo Alexiev, Hristina Angelova, Krum Bacvarov, Valeria Bineva, Dimitar Chernakov, Stoilka Ignatova-Terzijska, Tatiana Kancheva-Ruseva, Svetlana Kavrakova, Anton Kazakov, Bistra Koleva, Donka Koleva, Angel Konakliev, Rossitsa Mitkova, Emil Nankov, Vasil Nikolov, Nikola Theodossiev and

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**A BALKAN INQUISITION: A SHORT-TERM
STUDY ABROAD COURSE OFFERED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE**

Christine Hanson
University of Alaska Anchorage

On May 26, 2009, ten students and two faculty members from University of Alaska left Anchorage for a short-term study abroad course "A Balkan Inquisition". The class traveled in Bulgaria, the Republic of Macedonia, Greece and Turkey with an itinerary planned by Dr. Mark Carper of the Geography Department and Dr. Nikola Theodossiev of the American Research Center in Sofia, and led by Dr. Christine Hanson, Department of Anthropology, and Ms. Barbara Markley, Student Health and Counseling. The students came from varied academic backgrounds including art history, engineering, anthropology, and history, but the common factor for both the class leaders and the students was minimal knowledge about and experience in the Balkans. This made the class an adventure for all concerned. Still, each discipline brought its own perceptions and insights. We all learned from one another as well as our various local experts.

Before departure we read *The Balkans: A Short History* by Mark Mazower. Although this gave us a brief introduction, we nevertheless experienced culture shock when we finally arrived in Sofia. First, only one of us could read the Cyrillic alphabet. Fortunately we were met by two excellent guides, Ivan and Valentin, who spoke excellent English. The first day was a bit of a blur as we were all exhausted after a 28 hour trip to reach Sofia. Even so, we were struck by several aspects of life in Sofia. First, was the invasion of American products – Coca Cola, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, etc. On one hand this was familiar and reassuring but on the other hand it was a bit sad to see the less-than-best of American culture had invaded so quickly and widely. On another note, it was charming to see grandparents with children and old men playing chess in the parks. We also got to experience the high jinx of graduating teenagers – some things seem to be the same the world over.

One of the highlights of our stay in Sofia was the visit to the American Research Center. The facilities are fantastic and I would recommend them to anyone researching this part of the world. Dr. Nikola Theodossiev led a great discussion about life in Bulgaria, past and present. Several of the students were struck by an offhand comment that he made about being able to freely travel across Europe nowadays but not when he was a teenager under the communist dictatorship. It brought to our awareness just how different life in

Bulgaria is now than in the recent past. Another eye-opening experience at ARCS for one of our students was when Mr. Hristo Alexiev brought out his clarinet. As she also played the clarinet, she assumed that the instrument would be the same everywhere. Not so. She expected different a way of playing to reflect a different culture but not a different instrument.

While in Sofia we also visited St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral, Boyana Church, the Sveta Sophia Church, St. George Rotunda, and the Banya Bashi Mosque. Each structure was beautiful in its own way. We were deeply moved by the art, the architecture and the history but it was the meaning of religion through time that particularly struck us. This is a theme that would recur throughout the class. Religion, whether Christianity or Islam, seemed to be a uniting force for the disparate peoples of the region. An outstanding lecture at Rila Monastery gave us further insight into the role of religion in national history.

We did not stay in Bulgaria. Since the class was offered as an anthropology course (a last minute change from geography course), we were naturally interested in archaeological sites. So off to Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. While there we were privileged to get an on-site tour of Kaleto Fortress by one of the archeologists excavating the site. Excavation and reconstruction were taking place side-by-side. This was the first, but not the last, archaeological site we visited.

The largest site by far that any of us had seen was the ancient city of Stobi, also in the Republic of Macedonia. The depth of history impressed many of us. As one student wrote in her journal: "The coolest thing was that we were walking on ancient roads and at the end of the day our feet were covered with the dust of time." (Tomme Hough, 2009). The United States of America as a nation is so recent that many of us were overwhelmed by the complexity and extensive history of the region. Thank goodness the archaeologists were available to help us. The site is still being excavated so the students got to see a working site from excavation to drawing to artifact processing. Several of the students expressed a desire to take a field course and return to Stobi to participate in the excavation.

The countryside of both Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia are beautiful, the people friendly and helpful, the food excellent, and the wines superb. All of us agreed that we would not mind coming back for a longer stay.

We traveled to Greece from the Republic of Macedonia. Many of the students knew a little about Greek history. By this time many of the motifs and much of the sacred symbolism that we had seen before in Bulgaria and the Republic of

Macedonia were familiar. We managed to arrive in Thessaloniki right before the elections and were treated to two marches and political rallies. The reaction of the students to the communist parade and rally was amusing. We (the course leaders) had no idea that a political parade and rally would cause so much trepidation in young Americans. Surely the Cold War had been over for most of their lives. We particularly enjoyed the island of Thasos with its marble quarries and stunning beaches. One cannot spend all the time in museums!

It was a good break for us as our patience and good moods were severely challenged in Turkey. The hustle and bustle of Istanbul, a huge vibrant city, was a sharp contrast after the serenity of Thasos. There was a mix-up with our hotel and we ended up in a very pungent district that turned into one large brothel at night. However, with a few room changes and adjustments everything worked out all right. After all, we could stay home if all we wanted were familiar surroundings. On the bright side, the neighborhood encouraged the young students to stay in at night and tend to their class assignments. Also on the bright side, the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, the Basilica Cistern, the Grand Bazaar and the Spice Market, Topkapi Palace and rug market were all spectacular and informative. And imagine being able to have one foot in Europe and one in Asia both figuratively and literally. Despite our short stay, it was time to leave Turkey and return to Bulgaria. At least one of us sorely regrets not having seen the famous Ottoman lions with runic carvings – we will just have to go back sometime!

Having sacrificed a free day in Istanbul we were able to spend an extra day in the resort town of Sozopol on Bulgarian Black Sea coast. A free day in Sozopol was just what we needed after many days of history, art, architecture, and religion. Excavations next to the hotel provided interest for the die-hards while the beach and restaurants entertained the others. We could not stay at the beach forever – so on to enchanting Veliko Tarnovo. Tsarevets Fortress was the first "castle" that many students had ever seen and they were suitably impressed. From there we went to the "living past" of Gabrovo Ethnographic Museum. After a quick overall tour, we split off to pursue our individual crafts; some of us are potters, some jewelry makers and knife-makers, a few weavers and the rest general interest enthusiasts. It was a fascinating time.

On our way to Koprivshitsa we stopped at the Shipka Pass Memorial. The students charged up the steps like mountain goats and views were magnificent. Below us and a few kilometers to the southeast there was some sort of building that looked like a massive "flying saucer". We drove to the parking lot below it and some of the students climbed the steep path to the strange

installation. It was the abandoned communist-era building at Buzludzha. The students were intrigued with the crumbling mosaics and the size of the structure. After this short delay we arrived in Koprivshitsa, a quaint town in the mountains. The weather was so gorgeous and the town so picturesque that we decided to forego the lecture on the April Uprising and go horseback riding. What a joy that was! The horses were fine mounts and the trek through the surrounding countryside was marvelous. Most of us did not know how to ride, so just being on a horse was a novel experience to say nothing of the leisurely exposure to farms and fields. We returned to town in time for lunch – a meal spent sitting delicately for some.

By June 15, 2009, we had completed our circle Balkan tour and were back in Sofia whence we started. A free day to sightsee those things we missed at the beginning of our course, to shop, to pack, and to rest for the long trip back to Anchorage. We had been warmly welcomed by the people we met, we all put on kilos from the wonderful food, and as one of the students wrote “I learned more than my brain can process.” It was time for our little community of learners to go home.

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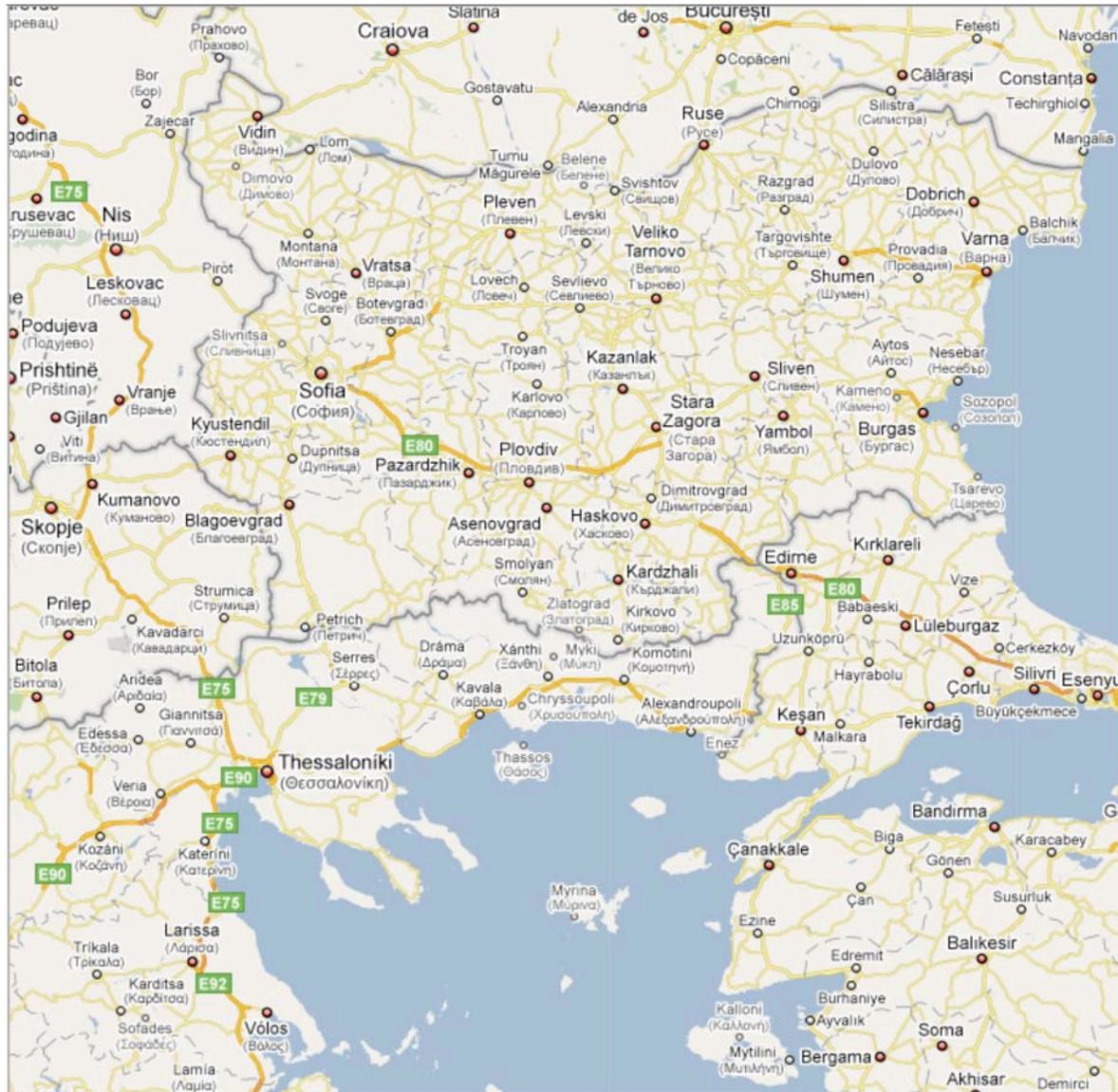
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