

The Bulgarian Studies Association



Щъркели, eastern Bulgaria

From the Associate Editor

Happy summer, everyone! Things are hopefully a little slower and calmer right now in your academic and personal lives, but we hope that this issue will show you that there have been some exciting things going on recently in the world of Bulgarian studies.

To those of you who participated in the membership directory survey, thank you! The directory can now be found online in the Members' Area of our site at foreninger.uio.no/bsa. We hope that this resource will be of use to those of you who are looking to connect with colleagues from our small but vibrant community.

Following input given at our annual meeting in Boston in November, several of us have been talking behind the scenes about possible changes to the organization's publication. Essentially, we are planning to coordinate peer review and add space for the

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Contents:

From the
Associate Editor1

Conference
Highlights 2

The John Bell
Book Prize 3

FASTI
Online 4

Bulgarian Proverb:

Лозето не ще молитва, а мотика.

publication of formal scholarly articles. This fall, we plan to present a more concrete proposal and seek input from members electronically, and, we hope, approve this exciting change at our meeting in November.

Particularly for this reason, we hope to see many of you at the ASEES meeting in San Antonio. In the meantime, enjoy the current issue!

Conference Highlights

The 19th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore

The 19th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore was held at the University of Chicago from April 25-27, 2014. The event is traditionally one of the premier gatherings for scholars of Balkan and South Slavic culture, and this year's conference was no exception. Participants came from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and contributed to a tremendous amount of productive and congenial discussion. On the final evening of the conference, Balkan dancing and a local Macedonian band served to commemorate Professor Victor Friedman's impending retirement from the University of Chicago. Congratulations to him and the organizers from Chicago on assembling a terrific event!

Papers related to Bulgarian studies at the conference included:

- Ronelle Alexander (University of California, Berkeley), "Polyaccentedness in Bulgarian Dialects"
- Grace Fielder (University of Arizona), "Reinventing Contemporary Standard Bulgarian"
- Cammeron Girvin (University of California, Berkeley), "What Makes a 'Folk' Song? Folkloric Markers in Socialist Bulgarian Song Texts"
- Angelina Ilieva (University of Chicago), "A Post-Structuralist Longing for Divine Language (and what that has to do with masculinity): Georgi Gospodinov's *Natural Novel* (1999, Bulgaria)"
- Thede Kahl & Ioana Nechiti (University of Jena), "Reversing language shift through musical performances" Portraits of musical survival beyond language shift among the Boyash in Hungary, Bulgarians in Romania and Ukraine and Calmyk in Russia"
- John Leafgren (University of Arizona), "Syntactic Complexity in Spoken and Written Bulgarian"
- Motoki Nomachi (Hokkaido University), "Does Banat Bulgarian Have a Chance to Be Revived? The Language Loss and Preservation of Banat Bulgarian in Serbia"
- Catherine Rudin (Wayne State College), "On relative markers: Bulgarian -to and Macedonian -što"
- Helmut Schaller (Philipps University of Marburg), "Cases and articles in Balkan languages"
- Irina Sedakova (Institute for Slavic Studies Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), "Slavic and Turkish terms in the Bulgarian ritual vocabulary: competition, co-existence, or?"

The John Bell Book Prize

The 2013 winner of the John Bell Book Prize is Panos Sophoulis's book *Byzantium and Bulgaria, 775-831* (Vol. 16 of East Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 450-1450, general editor Florin Curta. Leiden: Brill, 2011). The statement of the Book Prize committee says: "Panos Sophoulis's book on the relations between these two powers is an important scholarly contribution to the field of Bulgarian history. Although it has an apparently narrow chronological focus on the relations of the Byzantine empire with the emerging Bulgarian state, its broader themes encompass their concepts of nationhood and empire, and firmly situate his topic within the development of medieval Europe.

Through impressive documentation from Byzantine and Western sources, and integration of recent archaeological discoveries, Sophoulis provides a thorough explanation and convincing analysis of this critical period: the iconoclasm controversy, numerous changes of ruler in the Byzantine Empire, the disastrous defeat of the Emperor Nikephoros in 811, and the resulting expansion of the Bulgarian state under khans Krum and Omurtag. In particular, his detailed discussions of the conventional historiography, why it must be re-evaluated in the light of material evidence, and what new information this approach elicits, provide a thorough explanation and convincing analysis of this important period."



Побитите камъни, Варненско

Fasti Online: An Important International Resource on the Archeological Excavations in Bulgaria, Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean

Dr. Elizabeth Fentress, President, International Association for Classical Archaeology
Dr. Nikola Theodossiev, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

From its founding in 1946, one of the principal aims of the International Association for Classical Archaeology (AIAC; www.aiac.org) has been the publication of the *Fasti Archaeologici*. This annual review contained very useful summary notices of excavations through the area of the Classical World, loosely defined. However, spiraling costs, publication delays, and the sheer number of sites excavated combined to render it less and less useful. AIAC's Board of Directors thus decided in 1998 to discontinue the publication and to seek a

new, more effective way of recording and diffusing new results in the era of global internet communication.

Fasti Online (www.fastionline.org) was created in Italy in 2003 with the support of the Packard Humanities Institute and the collaboration of the Italian Istituto Centrale del Catalogo e della Documentazione. The site provides in-depth coverage of current excavations, reported in the national language and in English. It consists of a web-based GIS database that contains a basic record sheet for each site updated every excavation season. The site may be consulted by means of text searches and clickable maps which provide an overview of the excavation locations. On the Italian site there is also an on-line, peer-reviewed journal, *Fasti on Line Documents & Research (FOLD&R)*, where interim and short final reports are published. Links are also provided for project websites, and all institutions and specialists are mentioned, allowing them to "advertise" their work. *Fasti's* aim is to provide a key to unlock the extraordinarily rich archaeological results that derive not only from research excavations but also from rescue excavations generally carried out by national authorities.

From its Italian beginnings the site has spread to fourteen countries and is now translated into as many languages. We have concentrated particularly on Southeast Europe, as, in general, the fascinating archaeological research there remains largely opaque to outsiders and international scholars and



Above and Right: Statues of goddess Kybele from her temple discovered in Dionysopolis, modern Balchik (<http://fastionline.org> - site: AIAC_2674)

students. Although some publication takes place in national journals, usually not available in libraries outside the particular country, it is almost impossible to find out recent results without command of the local languages. At the same time, national users benefit from an easy-to-use website in their own language that gives them quick access to the results of excavations in their areas. Fasti is actively used by Bulgaria, Italy, Albania, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Ukraine, and less actively by Croatia, Kosovo, Malta, Morocco, Serbia and Slovenia. Recently, Spain joined Fasti and Turkey, too, is considering joining the project.

In 2013 we formed partnerships with two institutions. The first of these is the Center for the Study of Ancient Italy at the University of Texas at Austin (CSAI), which will now house the site on the University's computer and guarantee the permanence of the data and its availability, while increasing the speed of the site. The second is the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), which is hoping to launch a new edition of *FOLD&R* dedicated to conservation projects, and to extend the Fasti project to the Maghreb. The project is also supported by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage (MiBAC), the

Classical Association, the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, the Ukrainian Studies Fund of Harvard University and L - P : Archaeology.

The most exciting development, however, is our participation in the European project ARIADNE (Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking in Europe). As its name suggests, the project aims at the structural linking of a vast assortment of archaeological databases. Led by ADS (York) and PIN (Florence), the project involves not only the technical aspects of the linkages but also the creation of a network of participants: our role, as AIAC/Fasti, will be to create a community of projects similar to the Fasti, including *Gallia Informations*, Oasis and, we hope, *Archaeological Reports*. The structure, which maintains the individual identity of each individual project, while allowing the user to search across them all, should be a major contribution to archaeological research.

The success of Fasti is enormous. Over 3,300 archaeological sites are now online, most of which have multiple seasons, some with reports on as many as twelve seasons of excavation. Illustrated excavation reports for all periods are published both in the language of the participating country and in English. The Italian *FOLD&R* has published illustrated articles on 295 sites – far more than *Notizie degli Scavi* in any 6 years when it was still active. Readership is global and an average of 2,880 individual users use the site every month, a number that is tripled by the web-crawlers that index the site. The Fasti project is now entering its tenth year and is celebrating the first Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology recently granted by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and presented during the AIA Annual Meeting in Chicago in January 2014.

Like the other national sites, Fasti Bulgaria, active since 2005, is jointly managed by AIAC and a national



A wagon with two sacrificed horses from a Thracian aristocratic burial in a tumulus near Karanovo (<http://fastionline.org> - site: AIAC_3029)

institution, in this case Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. Currently, up to 80% of Bulgarian archaeologists are cooperating and over 530 Bulgarian archaeological sites are published on Fasti with bilingual excavation reports, both in English and in Bulgarian. The sites that were published date from the Paleolithic, the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic periods, the Bronze Age, the Thracians, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the First and the Second Bulgarian Kingdoms and the Ottoman period. In fact, Fasti Bulgaria was the second site that was launched after the original Italian site, and its success was a stimulus for other countries in Southeast Europe and Ukraine to subsequently join the project. The wealth of sites under excavation in Bulgaria makes it an ideal example of the uses of Fasti in a rapid internet dissemination of new archaeological research. A majority of hits on the Bulgarian site come from the United States as it is now recognized by American scholars and by the Archaeological Institute of America as by far the most important source on Bulgarian archaeology in English. Fasti Bulgaria is a fine example of how a site can be used to promote Bulgaria's rich and important archaeology and, by making the results of Bulgaria's heritage spending "visible," to attract international visitors and develop the heritage tourism in the country.



Remains of the mediaeval Bulgarian fortress at Urvich
(<http://fastionline.org> - site:AIAC_3343)

Contact Information

Officers of the Bulgarian Studies Association, 2013-2014

Vessela Warner, President, <warnerv@uab.edu>

Donald L. Dyer, Vice-President, <mldyer@olemiss.edu>

Martha Forsyth, Secretary-Treasurer, <theforsyths@verizon.net>

Editorial Board of the *Bulgarian Studies Association Newsletter*

Donald L. Dyer, Editor, <mldyer@olemiss.edu>

Cammeron Girvin, Associate Editor, <cgirvin@berkeley.edu>