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EDITOR'S NOTE

IN KEEPING with its mission to promote scholarship on a broad spectrum of Orthodox history and culture, this volume of the *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* continues its tradition by opening with two essays from the James W. Cunningham Memorial Lecture. Roy Robson's essay on the iconography of Old Believer Pimen Sofronov subtly demonstrates the significance of the Russian Diaspora and illustrates the expansion of Orthodoxy beyond its traditional borders by providing a classic example of an émigré's sojourn through Europe to the United States. Theophilus Prousis, on the other hand, deals with the political situation in Istanbul in 1821 at the dawn of the Greek revolution and the emergence of the Greek Orthodox world from Ottoman domination. It paints a picture through evidence from British archives of the tumultuous circumstances under which this emergence was effected.

These essays are further contextualized by three additional articles on developments in Russia and Eastern Europe. Charles Halperin's comprehensive review article of a volume honoring the memory of our Minnesota medievalist colleague Tom Noonan deals comparatively with the complex implications of Russia's evolution in the early modern world. Ada Dialla discusses the emergence of modern Russian nationalism and the Eastern Question within the parameters of Panslavism. Finally, John Lampe traces the transition of the Balkans into the political realities of the long twentieth century.

Against this background, two scholars of the younger generation present essays on topics largely affected by consequences of the broader developments of modernity. Spyridon Ploumidis discusses, as the title of his essay suggests, the split of the Orthodox community of Monastir in Macedonia caused by growing Bulgarian nationalism and "the conversion of Orthodox religious communities into national denominations in the Ottoman Balkans." Dimitrios Stamatopoulos examines this process on an institutional level by focusing on the Bulgarian schism and the emergence of an independent Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Four essays deal specifically with Greece and its emergence into the modern world. Maria Efthymiou traces the historiography of modern and contemporary Greece from 1833 to 2002, the subject of a two-volume publication of the proceedings of the Fourth International Congress of History held at the Institute for Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation. Antonis Klapsis discusses the Cyprus Question and Greek foreign

policy up to the 1931 Revolt against British colonial rule of Cyprus, while Theodore Georgopoulos does the same with another immediate aspect of Greek foreign relations, the impact of European Union law on Greek national and cultural identity. Finally, Panteleymon Anastasakis reassesses the impact of the famine in Greece during Occupation in World War II.

The translation of Greek literature featured in this volume is taken from George Theotokas's *Invalids and Wayfarers*, a sober depiction of the impact of World War II on Greek life. The *Yearbook's* special affinity with literature's multifaceted role is evidenced in a special section, guest edited by Edith Clowes, on the Russian writer Maxim Gorky and the debate on Godbuilding. This section, which includes three additional essays, is the result of a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

In 2008, the Modern Greek Studies Program and other units at the University of Minnesota organized in collaboration with the University of Athens the first of a three-part conference on "The Mediterranean and Its Seas." This first part took place at the University of Minnesota, and some of the presentations at the conference will appear in a future volume of the *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*.

The Modern Greek Studies Program will continue to cultivate these scholarly collaboratives. This is made possible by ongoing support from the College of Liberal Arts, and especially the Department of History and the Institute for Global Studies, at the University of Minnesota.

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