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CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

July 1, 1993–June 30, 1995

Kenneth H. Marks, *University of Minnesota*
EDITOR’S NOTE

THIS DOUBLE ISSUE OF the Modern Greek Studies Yearbook marks the completion of the first and the beginning of the second decade of its existence. In the range and comprehensiveness of subjects discussed, this is our most ambitious volume yet. Two dominant themes emerge from its contents. The first theme is the Republic of Cyprus, which by 1994 had completed two decades of political and psychological uncertainty stemming from the 1974 invasion of the Republic by Turkey. Sixteen of the forty-one main contributions to this volume deal with aspects of Cypriot political and cultural history. Taken together, these contributions compose a profile of Cyprus, which deserves greater attention than it has thus far received either by scholars or by political analysts. The second theme, Greek vernacular architecture, is developed in nine essays under the general appellation “Constructed Meaning: Form and Process in Greek Architecture.” Guest-edited by Eleftherios Pavlides and Susan Buck Sutton, who also contribute an analytical introduction, these essays and illustrations provide an imaginative blend of architecture, anthropology, and sociology, and reflect the latest scholarship in the field. Eleven articles have been grouped together in a category of Miscellany, only because they do not relate directly to either of the two dominant themes. These articles are nevertheless central to the study of the modern Greek experience in its various manifestations and interconnections to which the Yearbook has, since its inception, remained committed by encouraging interdisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary approaches to the study of Hellenism. Above all, the Yearbook has advocated tolerance of both traditional and innovative methods in Greek studies in an effort to promote contextualization within current intellectual discourse. Taken together, the contents of the volume further attest to the Yearbook’s objectives and accomplishments, and should reassure our readers that this commitment will continue as the Yearbook moves into its second decade.
Choosing Cyprus as one of the two dominant themes will, it is hoped, serve a double purpose: to acquaint readers with some of the issues that make up the complexity of what is usually referred to as the Cyprus Question or Problem, and to sensitize them to the reality that Cyprus, as an international issue, is a microcosm of crises in other parts of the world which for a variety of reasons have received much greater attention than Cyprus has. Two obvious examples are the crises in Kuwait and Bosnia, in comparison with which Cyprus has remained a silent crisis. Some of the factors that have conspired to render it as such relate directly to the prioritization of international crises by the Great Powers. First, one may compare the cases of Kuwait and Cyprus. Both were invaded by neighboring powers, yet Kuwait elicited Desert Storm, whereas Cyprus not only elicited no such action, but was in fact explained away (by none other than President Bush) as being not at all comparable to the Kuwait case. Obviously strategic considerations and the importance of oil for the industrial democracies were determining factors in the particular responses elicited. Second, one can compare the extensive discussion in the West generated by the atrocities which accompanied the war in former Yugoslavia over the future of Bosnia with the general apathy and indifference of the West toward similar atrocities that accompanied Turkey’s invasion of Cyprus in 1974. As sensitive observers have pointed out, while Cyprus was the first country to experience ethnic cleansing since World War II, the questions of displaced and missing persons and violations of human rights resulting from the Turkish invasion still have not been satisfactorily addressed.

Another factor which has contributed to the silencing or the marginalization of the Cyprus Problem during the last twenty years may have been the result of the deliberate policy of the Cyprus government to diffuse the crisis on the island by peaceful means. Unfortunately, the government’s decision to promote a solution through peaceful means as opposed to open conflict, coupled with impressive economic growth, which outsiders have described as an “economic miracle,” may have relegated the Cyprus crisis to international obscurity. However, responsible observers have noted that the apparent peace and prosperity on the island are, in reality, tenuous, and that the situation can explode at any moment with disastrous consequences for the people of Cyprus, Greek-Turkish relations, and the international community at large. It is hoped that the United States initiative and resolve for a solution to the Bosnian crisis will be replicated with appropriate sensitivity in the case of Cyprus. For as Richard C. Holbrooke, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, has repeatedly pointed out, the Cyprus Problem must be solved.

The decision to feature Cyprus in this volume prompted the editorial staff to solicit assessments of aspects of the Cyprus problem from the last two presidents of the Republic. We are delighted that President Glafkos Clerides and former President George Vassiliou, both of whom have written and lectured extensively on the subject, responded with such assessments. Their
insightful comments deserve careful consideration by those involved in the process of effecting a peaceful solution to the problem. President Clerides discusses Turkey’s responses to United Nations resolutions and reaches the conclusion that Turkey’s intransigence has been the main obstacle to a negotiated settlement. President Vassiliou, who during his term of office played a major role in giving the neglected Cyprus crisis visibility in the international forum, basically agrees with the main point made by President Clerides. President Vassiliou, however, also uses the case of Cyprus as an illustration in his discussion of the role of the United Nations as a necessary force in managing ethnic conflicts. The assessments by both presidents emphasize the need for a peaceful solution by honoring the various United Nations resolutions on the Cyprus Problem. Furthermore, they agree that only a renewed international initiative may move the Cyprus crisis out of the stalemate in which it has been languishing for two decades. It is a commentary on the nature of the Cyprus stalemate that, even though a year has elapsed since they were written, these two assessments sound very much up to date. A different perspective of the Cyprus Problem is discussed in the article “The Prohibition of the Use of Force in International Law and the Cyprus Problem” by Nicholas Emiliou, who, using the Cyprus Problem as a case study in international law, provides a comparative analysis of the problem that deserves to be read thoughtfully by scholars, political analysts, and government officials.

The profile of Cyprus is enhanced by several contributions which elucidate cultural aspects of the Cyprus mosaic, and which may partly explain perceptions or images that outsiders historically have entertained about Cyprus. This is especially revealing in the article by Alexander Grishin in which he discusses the account of the visit to Cyprus by the eighteenth-century Ukrainian pilgrim Vasyl Bars’kyj. The rather sympathetic commentary of Bars’kyj, a fellow Orthodox, is in sharp contrast to the condescending attitude and comments of American missionaries, who, a century later (1834-42), attempted to establish missionary schools on Cyprus with the express purpose of imposing on the island what they considered to be a superior Christian culture. This study in “cultural differences” by Terry Tollefson echoes problems in other parts of the world where outsiders, visitors or invaders, do not take into consideration indigenous cultures while pursuing their own objectives. Both of these articles also remind us of untapped sources (travel literature and missionary records) for the history of Cyprus, whose rich historical heritage largely determines its complex national profile and the variety of images it evokes. Cyprus has been, after all, a point of contact between Europe and Asia as is reflected in such well-known classics as Shakespeare’s Othello and Cervantes’s El Amante Liberal which are discussed in the article by Ali Shehzad Zaidi.

Nowhere is the rich historical and cultural heritage of Cyprus revealed as abundantly as in the archaeological treasures of the island. And nobody is more qualified to trace this exciting story of archaeological work in Cyprus than
Vassos Karageorghis, for many years director of antiquities in Cyprus and currently director of the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus. Karageorghis’s essay in the Research Aids section is a tour de force, a guide to and an interpretation of the work carried out by several international archaeological teams during the last sixty years. The results of these archaeological efforts constitute a remarkable testimony to the cultural resilience of the island which, despite a variety of influences, has retained a predominantly Greek character. This phenomenon persists into the twentieth century, becoming more complex by the inroads of modernity. Stavros Constantinou, for example, traces the “Changing Spatial Aspects of the Population of Cyprus” during the last hundred years, and reminds us that, like in other parts of the world, in the transition from tradition to modernity, the village has lost out to the big city. Constantinou’s article addresses the impact of urbanization on a small state like Cyprus, which was further affected geographically and demographically by the 1974 Turkish invasion. As Caesar Mavratsas adroitly points out in his provocative article in which he compares Greece, Cyprus and Greek America, modernization also has a telling effect on the consciousness of a people. It is generally agreed that, in turn, self-consciousness and self-images are best reflected or articulated in the educational climate of a particular individual or nation. This issue is addressed rather boldly by Panayiotis K. Persianis who for many years was an implementer of educational policy in Cyprus. Persianis analyzes the Greek-Cypriot educational policy “as an expression of conflict at the political, cultural, and socioeconomic levels.” Educational debates are by their very nature controversial, involving as they do the questions of religious and cultural orientations and ethnic identity. This is true particularly in a country like Cyprus which places a strong emphasis on education as indicated by the high rate of literacy, a phenomenon outlined in the informative article “Educational Institutions in Cyprus” by Petros Pashiardis. Education in Cyprus has received great attention in this volume, not only because education has always been important to Cypriots, but also because the island has embarked upon a new educational adventure, the founding of the first state university on the island which accepted its first class of students in the fall of 1992. There is no doubt that, next to gaining political independence, founding the University of Cyprus is the greatest emotional and financial investment of the citizens of Cyprus in their country. And there is a consensus that, despite the controversies that usually accompany the establishment of such institutions, the university will have an impact on the individual and collective consciousness of the Cypriot people. It will also make Cyprus intellectually an international partner as it prepares for the twenty-first century. These expectations echo the sentiments and wishes of Sylvain Lourié, UNESCO’s representative on the Interim Governing Board of the University of Cyprus, as expressed in his farewell address in May 1995. It is indeed a matter of considerable satisfaction and a
good omen of things to come that five of the contributors to this volume are professors from the new University of Cyprus.

Admittedly, political and cultural consciousness does not require a university in order to articulate itself. Indeed Cyprus can claim a sizeable group of writers, poets, and artists, whose reputation has spread beyond the island, and who, long before the establishment of the university, enriched life on the island through their works, teaching, public pedagogy, and literary journals. This is beautifully reflected, for example, in the works and correspondence of men such as Costas Proussis and Glafkos Alithersis, the former a literary critic and writer, the latter primarily a poet. Both Cypriots by birth and upbringing, Alithersis spent most of his creative years in Egypt, while Proussis immigrated to the United States after World War II. The letters of Proussis to Alithersis presented by Costas Nicolaides in this volume provide a sense of the mission that characterized these intellectuals as they strove to contribute culturally to their native island, either through the publication of literary journals such as Kυπριακά Γράμματα or through debates on important issues facing the Cypriots. The history of Cypriot γραμματεία (literary accomplishment) awaits its scholar, and we would like to hope that several of the articles in this volume will inspire further research in this area, especially by young scholars at the University of Cyprus. The Cypriot creative imagination is also exemplified in this volume by the three text translations: George Philippou Pierides, Times of Affluence (translated by Donald E. Martin and Soterios G. Stavrou); the poetry of Andriana Ierodiaconou, Nasa Patapiou, and Niki Marangou (translated by Stephanos Stephanides); and poems by Kyriakos Haralambides (translated by Kimon Friar). As has been pointed out, artistic perceptions can frequently offer profound insights, and these three translations provide an important dimension of the Cyprus profile as it has evolved, especially in the last thirty years.

Finally, I wish to make reference to Cypriot artists who, space permitting, would have been extensively represented in this volume. They will be featured in future volumes of the Yearbook. But we are happy to preface the section on Cyprus with George Skoteinos’s striking painting, “The Execution of Kouros,” which, inspired by the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, eloquently reminds us that wars destroy not only human lives but also the cultural accomplishments of the human spirit.

This introductory note has emphasized the Cyprus section because the nine essays on architecture, “Constructed Meaning: Form and Process in Greek Architecture,” are ably introduced by the two guest editors (pp. 271-95). It should be pointed out, however, that this section, richly illustrated with photographs and drawings, is meaningfully supplemented with seven hitherto unpublished collages by the Greek architect and artist Yiannis Counelis. These collages illustrate the interplay between architecture and anthropology highlighted in the text.
As indicated above, the articles in the Miscellany section deal with important issues relevant to the Greek experience in the Helladic space and in the diaspora. To a certain degree, this is also true of the review articles and many of the book reviews. Some of them make a point of reminding us that developments in Greece, or anywhere else for that matter, do not take place in a vacuum, whether this relates to technology as discussed by Colin Simmons and Nicos Leandros in “Technological Change and Industrial Restructuring in Greece: The Case of the Printing and Publishing Industry,” or to political developments as argued by Sabrina Ramet in “The Transition in Eastern Europe: Prophets, Chroniclers, and Revisionists.” More poignantly, discussion of aspects of the Greek language by Kostas Kazazis and Demetrius C. Moutsos, respectively, occasioned by the appearance of Dizionario greco moderno-italiano and a pioneering work in Greek linguistics, Modern Greek Word Formation, remind one of the historical path and influences that spoken languages undergo, and that the odyssey of the modern Greek language is as complex and problematic as that of any language.

The rest of the articles in the Miscellany section fall into three categories. The first category focuses on the variety of the Greek experience in the diaspora. This is reflected in the following contributions: N. D. Diamantides, “An Elective Encounter: The Koraes-Jefferson Connection”; John Gregoriadis, “The Greek Boy,” the astonishing story of a young immigrant to the United States in the early nineteenth century; Theodore Natsoulas, “Accommodation to Ethiopia: Sketches of Four Greek Lives in Africa.” Similarly, the contribution by Sophia Mergiali-Falangas reminds us, among other things, of the Greek presence in Europe after the fall of Constantinople, by tracing the relation of an Italian humanist, Marcus Antonius Antimachus, with a Greek teacher from the Peloponnese, Ioannis Moschos. The second category concentrates on the Greeks and literature. Irina Corten continues her study of Greek images in Russian literature, this time considering works of the Soviet period, whereas K. A. Dimadis discusses modern Greek reality in the work of the Greek novelist Alexis Panselinos. Finally, in “The Axion Esti as Minor Literature,” Katerina Andriotis-Baitinger raises some important questions not only about Elytis’s major work but about the bigger problems confronting minor languages which have produced major artistic works. The third category deals with a topic to which the Yearbook is especially committed, Eastern Orthodoxy. We are pleased to feature two articles, each focusing on particular problems confronting Eastern Orthodoxy in times of crisis. The first article, by Greg Gaut, analyses the problematics of Christian politics in late imperial Russia through the prism of the philosophy of the Russian thinker Vladimir Solovyov and his social gospel theology. The second article, by Peter C. Bouteneff, “The Timeless Steps into Time: The Icon in the Vision of E. N. Trubetzkoi,” reminds us that the treatment of and response to icons by Orthodox believers is an important measuring stick of a society’s spiritual condition, exultation or bankruptcy. It is also a reminder that without
an understanding of icons Orthodoxy will remain quite foreign to the non-Orthodox. The section on Orthodoxy ends with the brief assessment of the life and work of James W. Cunningham (1937-94) as a scholar and activist for Eastern Orthodoxy at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, where he taught from 1963 until his death. The assessment is provided by his colleague and friend Keith Dyrud. We were all saddened by Jim’s death, but we are delighted with the establishment of the James W. Cunningham Lecture Series, which will bring a distinguished scholar of Eastern Orthodoxy to the University of Minnesota every fall. The inaugural lecture was given by Karl F. Morrison, Lessing Professor of History and Poetics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The title of his presentation, “The Muses go to Byzantium: Eastern Orthodoxy in the Creative Imagination of André Chénier and Alexander Solzhenitsyn,” was the culmination of three lectures Professor Morrison gave in the Twin Cities on 1-3 November 1995 under the overarching title “The Icon and the Mask: Eastern Orthodoxy in the West’s Self-Image.”

I want to conclude by thanking all persons connected in major or minor ways with the production of this volume of the *Yearbook*. I am especially grateful to Soterios G. Stavrou, Diana Dalbotten, and Heather Bailey for their many hours of hard work and for their good humor, and to Julie Delton for preparing the maps of Ethiopia and Cyprus. I also want to thank administrators and colleagues at the University of Minnesota for their continued support. Finally, I want to thank the numerous scholars from around the world whose collaboration has made the first decade of the *Yearbook* a stimulating and exciting experience.

Theofanis G. Stavrou
Director, Modern Greek Studies
University of Minnesota