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1 July 2003–30 June 2005
Alyssa Johnson-Wells and Sheila Puhl
University of Minnesota

EDITOR'S NOTE

THIS VOLUME marks the end of the second and the beginning of the third decade of the *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*. Special thanks for the survival and the improvement of the *Yearbook* over the two decades go to members of the editorial board, some of whom sadly are no longer with us. The present volume welcomes two new members to the editorial board: Fatima Eloeva from St. Petersburg University and Olga E. Petrunina from Lomonosov State University, Moscow. We feel fortunate to have these two colleagues as part of the team to help us identify and encourage scholars working in the areas featured prominently in the *Yearbook*. Byzantine and Modern Greek studies have enjoyed a distinguished record during both the Imperial and the Soviet periods. Moreover, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Modern Greek studies, in particular, has experienced an unprecedented renaissance in several prominent universities in that country. Over the years, the *Yearbook* has collaborated fruitfully with some of the leading neohellenists from that part of the world, and we look forward to expanding the range of this scholarly association.

The contents of the current volume attest to the nature of the enterprise as promised in the first issue of the *Yearbook*. It was no accident that the first article in the *Yearbook* was “The Orthodox Elders (*Startsy*) of Imperial Russia” by Robert L. Nichols. Neither is it an accident that the lead articles in the current volume by Nadieszda Kizenko (“The Mystery of Confession in Imperial Russia”) and Gary Jahn (“Tolstoy, Orthodoxy, and Brotherhood”) deal with spirituality and culture in Imperial Russia. Dissemination of scholarly information on Eastern Orthodoxy remains central to the *Yearbook's* mission. This emphasis is attested further by Josef Altholz's article on the interaction of Orthodoxy with the Anglican Church during the second half of the nineteenth century. The *Yearbook* is indeed a publication of Mediterranean, Slavic, and Eastern Orthodox Studies, as evidenced by articles on a variety of topics with a broad landscape by such scholars as Dimitris Livanios (“The Central European Meets the Brigand: Ernest Gellner as a Historian of Balkan Nationalism and Violence”), David MacKenzie (“Milovanović and the Bosnian Annexation Crisis, 1908–1909”), James Reid (“Trauma in War: The Balkan Wars and World War I”), Marietta Minotos (“A Time for Decisions: Greece, the OEEC Negotiations, and the European Economic Community 1957–1959”), and Thanassis Bravos (“Think Tanks Overlooked in Greek Foreign Policy”). It is also a publication that promotes the study of the Greek experience in the

Diaspora, as reflected in several of the essays and book reviews. Charles Frazee discusses the life and career of a Cretan boy who grows under Venetian influence to become pope, while Yiorgos Anagnostou celebrates the work of Helen Papanikolas, a Greek immigrant to the United States and a scholar of the Greek Diaspora in the Western hemisphere. Similarly, James Tabor discusses the career of a Constantinople-born Greek, Konstantin Bazili, who escaped to the Russian Empire at the time of the Greek War of Independence, became a Russian citizen, and served in the foreign service of the tsar, developing a special expertise on the Eastern Question. The works of Bazili on the Ottoman Empire are now being republished, as the study of Russian interests in the Levant and of the Greeks in the service of the tsar is gaining attention. This is also true of the study of places like Odessa, where the Greeks in the Russian Empire flourished and made significant contributions. In a revisionistic article, John Mazis offers a reconsideration of our understanding of this multi-ethnic port city on the Black Sea.

An especially large section of this issue of the *Yearbook* is devoted to Cyprus, which, during the last two years, has resurfaced as a silent crisis and international problem in need of a solution. The Annan Plan raised great expectations and caused much frustration. Regardless of the outcome to the Cyprus Question as a result of this initiative, the preparation of the plan and reaction to it by the scholarly and diplomatic community make it an important landmark in the history of the search for a political solution on that troubled island. In revisiting the Cyprus Question, several scholars provide critical assessments of the plan and offer an alternative, "European" solution. Cyprus is also featured through the prism of an ambitious eight-volume bibliographic project, *Mirror of Greece*, by the Cypriot bibliographer Nikos Panayiotou, insightfully commented on by four scholars with vast experience in the art and use of bibliography (E. Kapsomenos, D. Daskalopoulos, Stavros Zoumboulakis, and Savvas Pavlou).

From its beginning, the *Yearbook* has emphasized discussion of bibliographical and other research aids. In addition to the Panayiotou project, we are happy to feature articles on two cultural foundations which promote activities aimed at supporting further research. One of them is a historical discussion by Maria Dimaki-Zora of the activities of the Parnassos Literary Society on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary, and the other is the report on the activities of the Cultural Foundation of the Popular Bank of Cyprus, presented here by its director, Marina Vryonidou-Yiangou. Finally, this commitment to bibliographic and other research aids is reflected in the review essays by Ioulita Iliopoulou, "L'Annonce dans la Poésie d'Odysseus Elytis," Georg B. Michels, "Were Avvakum's Writings Forgeries? A Critical Look at a New Swiss Study," Aaron N. Michaelson, "From Missionary to Saint: Innokentii, Metropolitan of Moscow," and Maria Koundoura, "*Roads of Ink*: Yiorgos Chouliaras and the Cartographic Imagination," and in book reviews, truly an important feature of the *Yearbook* during the first two decades of its existence.

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