

workers. Whereas he displays reluctance to the state intervention as well as to the projects of international organizations, the proactive presence of the local associations and NGOs is seen as the chance to spread an attitude of moderate optimism amongst the people.

I'll not get in the content's chapters. The full of details and the rich analysis couldn't be displayed, not even summarized in this short review. Some ideas have to be noticed yet. The concept of labor, both as a theoretical term (what defines the 'labor' in the Socialist period and what defines it after 1990?) and as value (Kideckel emphasizes its function in getting personal identity and social security), provides for the first half of the book with discursive coherence. Kideckel outlines the change of the labor into one puzzle of getting-by schemes. In the second half of the book, the author approaches the effects this change has on the workers' communities, families, on their gender relationships and not at least, on the perception of their own bodies. In this last respect, the two chapters that foreclose the volume, *Strangers in Their Own Skin: Workers and Gender in Postsocialism* and *The Embodied Enemy: Stress, Health, and Agency*, are challenging and full of fertile hypothesis for the future researches.

Someone could contend the minimum level of the conceptualization the analysis in the Kideckel's book. Still, in my opinion, the stake of the volume is the accurate circumventing of one core issue in the history of the post socialist transformation (What happens with the Socialist greatest part of the active population? Do they matter for today? In which sense they are (in)active?), and its framing through a multifaceted research perspective. In this sense, the Kideckel's book lays down one thorough research program for the anthropology in former Socialist countries.

Stelu Șerban

Ο ελληνικός κόσμος ανάμεσα στην εποχή του Διαφωτισμού και στον εικοστό αιώνα. Πρακτικά του Γ' Ευρωπαϊκού Συνεδρίου Νεοελληνικών Σπουδών. Βουκουρέστι, 2–4 Ιουνίου 2006. Επιμέλεια Κωνσταντίνος Δημάδης. Τόμοι Α' – Γ'. Ελληνικά Γράμματα, 2007.¹²

The European Society for Modern Greek Studies, founded in 1995, was fast in organizing congresses, whose importance for the contacts, the communication among the specialists in Modern Greek studies, as well as for the circulation of their research work is gradually increasing. The first congress took place in 1998 in the Freie Universität of Berlin, the second one in 2002 in Rethymnon, in the University of Crete and the third in 2006 at the Bucharest University, in the joint organization of the Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy, the Faculty for History and the Romanian Society for Modern Greek Studies..

The comprehensive subjects of these congresses: *Ο Ελληνικός κόσμος ανάμεσα στην Ανατολή και τη Δύση 1453–1981*, for the first one, *Η Ελλάδα των νησιών από τη Φραγκοκρατία ως σήμερα* for the second and *Ο ελληνικός κόσμος ανάμεσα στην εποχή του Διαφωτισμού και στον εικοστό αιώνα* for the third, i.e. topics structured mainly on time but also on place principles, have in mind as large as possible a participation and to demonstrate how vast a field of research Modern Greek studies are.

And indeed, as Professor Dimadis mentions in his introduction, there were 357 requests for attendance 298 of them with papers. The scientific committee of the conference accepted 195 (1st volume p.56). This participation is obvious from the contents of the Proceedings, three volumes where 167 papers are published.

The Bucharest congress was an outstanding success. I dare say that it was «the scientific event» of 2006 especially for the younger researchers, for whom the European Society shows constant concern. The choice of the place was a good one from several points of view. As K. Dimadis lets us know in his *Preface*, the choice of Bucharest as a place for the congress was decided: a) because in

¹² This review was read at the presentation of the Conference papers in Athens on the 19th of February 2008.

the Romanian Principalities Hellenism played an important role in the period of the Enlightenment and b) because number of Romanian scholars take a special interest in modern Greek studies c) and because in the libraries and archives of Romania there is much stuff of interest for the modern Greek studies (vol.1., p. 57). As I have myself carried researches in the Romanian capital for the needs of my own dissertation I can only confirm the importance of the above reasons.

Sincere congratulations to the Organising Committee and mainly to professor Konstantinos Dimadis, as the almost unachievable was achieved given the Greek reality. To make things clear the congress drew together 167 papers of researchers from Europe, Australia, the United States and Canada, Southern America and the Near East and it published them in an almost irrefragable way in an interval that hardly exceeded one year from the congress.

Let me attempt a concise presentation of the Proceedings. My choice of authors is not indicative of an evaluation, it just suits my regroupings. The first element I wish to point out is that the wide temporal and scientific subject of the above mentioned congress (while the only fixed time limit was the Enlightenment) has allowed the presentation of a too large variety of papers from a lot of scientific fields. Thus the Proceedings display an open stage of interdisciplinary carrefours of cadets and recognized scientists from a a long series of Greek and foreigner universities. This big variety is mirrored in the three volumes that are divided in 19 individual sections, following step of the thematic sections in which had been divided the c ongress..

The first volume of the Proceedings contains fifty contributions set into seven sections created according to chronological and topic criteria. In the first section (27 papers) with the title "History of 18th century" the focus is cast on the Enlightenment with Alkisti Sofos' paper on the *Ephimeris* of the Puliu brothers, Olga Cicanci's "Romanian political problems in the Greek historiography of 18th century", Anna Tabaki's contribution on the role played by the Fanariots in the early assimilation of Don Quixote in the Greek literature, and Lia Brad-Chisacof 's paper on Caesar Daponte and Zacharia Karandinos. J. Bouchard, Nadia Danova, Svetlana Berikasvili and I. K. Chasiotis respectively examine comparatively the Enlightenment in Greece and Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia and Armenia.. From among the next section (7 papers) let me point out the importance of the general title i.e. "Greek Diaspora", which consecrates the particular role played by the Greeks besides their national borders. And here we find a big variety of subjects. I compile: "The engagement of national values in the case of Ignatios Ouggroblachias of" Thomas Kyriaki, "the Greeks of the diaspora among the Serbs of" Giobanka Tzortzebits Giobanobits, Glykofrydi-Leontsini for the role of intellectuals of Diaspora in the distribution of ideas with their base Dimitrios Nottaras and Emanuele Tesauo, while the work of Persas Mission for Grigorios Palaiologos, Anna Lazarova and Julia Krivorutsko for Greek-Bulgarian and Grek Slavic linguistic contacts respectively, even if they are included here, would suit in the first section: "Literature of 19th century" and the other two in the section "Linguistics", that follows.

In the section "Anthropology" (6 papers) Al. Politis, P. Makridge, V. Nitsiakos, Tamara Kostis-Pachnoglou, Katerina Seraidari and I. Zelepos deal with religion, national identity, Greek folk stories. The sections "Church History", "Books and Manuscripts" and "Linguistics" collect 6 papers of G. – Sp. Mamalou, Tz. N. Ramazanova, T. Kaplanis, Sv. Sidneva, All. Rallis Dim. Melissaropoulos and J. Bernal. The volume is complete with four papers on the "Literature of 19th century" and more specifically a paper on Alexandros Rizo Rangavis by Henri Tonnet. In the second tome there are fifty nine papers set in five sections. The first is dedicated to the theory of literature (3 papers) with contributions by E. Kapsomenos and A. Lambropoulos. the D. Gialamas' paper "Journeys taken by Greek men of letters to the Soviet Union (1957–1970 relying on unpublished material from the Russian Literary Archives)" relates rather to the history of Modern Greek literature. In the section "History the 19th and 20th century" fifteen authors display a large range of topics on polical, economic and social history or ideology. To stress the big variety of papers let me quote indicatively certain titles: P. Christopoulos, "The place of Ioannis Kapodistrias and Nikolaos Spiliadis in the Greek Enlightenment", G.Ploumidis and N. Anastasopoulos, "Brigandish behaviors at the beginning of 20th century: the instance of the prefect of Ioannina", and Matoula Tomaras-Sideris' "Greek Egyptian Benefactors-History and Ideology." Domna Paschalidos contributes "The political mind in the service of economy: political significances in Greek advertisements between 1880–1909".

The next section with as a general subject "The Greek purism" includes 7 papers (A. Stabela, L. Christodoulidos, E.W. Bornträger, N. Kalospyros, D. Stamatopoulos, M. Serrano and D. Kaskalis), while in the section "Literature and multimedias" (3 papers) there is mention of the "Archive of the Modern Greek Writers", the "Program of recording and rescuing archival and territorial evidences of the Greek community of Istambul (18th–20th cent.)" and for an innovative Electronic Morphological Dictionary of Modern Greek Language. The last unit of the second volume "Literature of 20th century" (31 papers) is the largest in the Proceedings. Most of the papers in this section deal with the literature of interwar with papers on "1930 a decade of theoretical syncretism", or the influence of Knut Hamsun on the interwar literature, the Nobel prize winners G. Seferis and Od. Elytis, on G. Theotokas, M. Karagatsis, G. Sarantaris, N.Kalos, N. Engonopoulos etc. and on the magazines *Trito mati* and *Ta Nea Grammata*. The postwar writers dealt with are M. Anagnostakis, Th. Valtinos, Maro Dukas, N. Chatsis, P. Matesis, M. Zei, Mimika Kranakis, A. Panselinos, N. Vagenas and K. Montis. The third volume comprises fifty eight papers divided into seven sections. The volume opens with the section "Greek –Romanian relations" with 13 very interesting contributions of Greeks and Rumanian from among which one on the known benefactor Apostle Arsakis as a political person, the Romanian citizenship and the Greeks of Romania, the Greek associations and schools in Romania in the 19th century, etc. The papers of the next section draw on topics linked to theatre: Kyriaki Petrakos deals with the appearance of feminism in the Modern Greek theatre, Ev. Dabas with the theatrical work of P. Matesis, I. Tresorukova with the elements of the language of Aristofanes in the comedies of Karagkiozi, G. Pefanis with "Crossroads in the theory of history and theatre" etc. In the section dedicated to "Translations" mainly questions of translations of Greek literary texts into foreigner languages (Letonian, Spanish, Czech and Serbian) are addressed and sometimes translations the other way round. Niky Eideneier points out the problems a translator and a foreign editor meet with the corrective interventions of a writer in his work.

The next section "Relations of Greek culture with other cultures" (20 papers), underlines emphatically the dynamism and the various aspects of this comprehensive subject. Certain papers draw on comparatism or intertextuality and from among them let me mention "Lyricism and collectiveness in Solomos and in Wordsworth" B. Dimoulas, "German echos in Dionysio Solomos" C. Gütchenke, "Amorgos, The Waste Land and the immaculate conception , a comparative reading by" E. Rentzou, M. Zarimis' "The Darwinism in the Modern Greek literature : a fresh reading of the Rich and the Poor by Gr. Xenopoulos". In the three other two poles of interest are fixed by Greece and Serbia: "Greek-Serbian literary relations in the age of Classicism and Romanticism" I. Radulovic, "the Nobel winner Odysseus Elytis and the Serbian culture of" X. Maritski-Gratzanski and "the poet Titos Patrikios and the Serbian literature of" Ivan Gadjanski. Let me mention a paper that examines the relation with the Russian literature of (P. Ilinskaia), with the Georgian one (Ann Chikovani), with Spanish literature (P. Stavrianopoulou and M. Morfakidi) etc. There are 3 papers in the section "Feminine Literature" (D. Anagnostopoulos, F. Kolitsi and M. Garcia Amoros). An entire section is dedicated to Kavafis with 4 papers belonging to A. Drakopoulos, Maria Tsoutsoura, Elpida Iakobidou and K. Makris. The Proceedings are completed with the section "Greek literature and the arts" (5 papers), in which Th. Koutsogiannis draws on the artistic and theoretical work of Gerasimos Pitsamanos a painter from the isle of Kefalonia, Dora Mentis on the "Persons and masks in the poetry and the painting of N. Engonopoulos" and Th. Kaloson on "Zorba of Kazantzakis and his cinematographic version".

Coming to shortcomings the first element of these proceeding that I have already touched is the absence of a common central theme. From the almost exhaustive presentation of the topic of the Hellenic islands in the Proceedings of the second congress, much more work is published here, the variety of which discourages any effort to describe them in a comparative or encompassing perspective. Of course, this three volumes realise with success what their title promises: they provide a very large spectrum of scientific interpretive approaches or researches on the Greek society, history education and the arts ever since the Enlightenment till today. With all the pro and cons that my proposal may stir, I think that the next congress should set itself a more limited subject so that the topics can alternate. To my mind the main scientific contribution of this Proceedings is the comparative dimension chosen in most instances. This dimension becomes conspicuous by the titles of three sections:

“Greek Diaspora”, “Greek Romanian relations” and “Relations of the Greek culture with other cultures”. This element is of outstanding importance. We should remember that a few years ago a characteristic of the Greek historiography and literary history was the introspection and the avoidance to scrutinize the way in which the Greek spirit functions in the wider international intellectual life. The fact was due no doubt to the difficulties of communication that existed until recently with our Balkan neighbours, a reason why we should welcome all the contributions on the intellectual relations and interactions between the peoples in the area. The student will find rich informative material, but also subjects for further research and study around this vast subject in the three volumes of Proceedings. Their second equally essential contribution is that they stand for a real panorama of Modern Greek Studies worldwide. I do not mean that they encompass all current neohellenists in their pages. Still through belonging to a pleiad of Greek and foreigner neohellenists the picture of interests and the methodological approaches drawn. I would like to underline a very important trait of the Proceedings. It is obvious as with the previous congresses that the Organisational Committee gave the floor to lots of young scientists. These contributions part of doctoral theses, Master degrees, or important scientific projects programs, reveal that the Modern Greek studies in Greece and elsewhere are anything from sterile and have rooted in a fertile territory that produces continuously fresh results. This is the most hopeful message one can glean from the perusal of the Proceedings. Of course, for the reason precisely that many of the students that are present in the Proceedings are young persons relatively unknown, a few data on each author would have been very useful at the end of each paper, in the way a List of Participants is usually published in many proceedings.

The contribution of the European Society of Modern Greek Studies is outstanding, because it succeeded to bring in contact join together the specialists in Modern Greek literature, history and culture, in the same way in which in America the Modern Greek Studies Association had done or as in various European countries the local societies for Modern Greek Studies had done. The congresses held every four-year are already an institution and a strong incentive for the exchange of creative opinions.

I would like in the end to focus on Paula Scalcău’s foreword on the Greek community of Turnu Severin in Romania: «This study has started ten or more years ago with a photo, *which bore the stamp of a photographer from my own town... When I went to the cemetery I found many tombs with Greek names on them side by side with Romanian ones as the Greeks married in and became related to the Romanian families. With the further help of the phone book I started finding the offsprings and thus the Greek community of the town was born.*» (vol III’, p. 131).

This foreword sets with an outstanding simplicity and moderation a series of questions and problems and provides solutions. It displays the gradual formation of a specialist in modern Greek studies starting from an appetite for research, with inventiveness, interest but also and mainly hard work. Here is the reason why I consider it representative in order to I underline the more important virtue of preceding that resulted from the congress: they cause fertile discussions and contribute substantially to the exchange of opinions, to new personal acquaintances, inquiring fields, explanatory approaches and critical tendencies.

For the above mentioned reasons my opinion on this three volume work is absolutely positive, for all the random misprints or the excessive subject dispersion into many partial sections, which in fact makes us go through all tables of contents in order to find the work that more specifically interests us. Time therefore, than to wish the book a safe journey to its public, thank once again wholeheartedly the European Society for Modern Greek Studies and wish it to organise with proportional success its fourth Congress in 2010.

Eri Stavropoulos

(translated into English by Lia Brad Chisacof)