



Greeks in Central Europe between the 15th and 20th Century

21 - 23 September 2022

Venue: OZ IKONY, M.R. Štefánika 33, Žilina, Slovakia

IKONY
EXPOZICIA ORIGINALNYCH IKON



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUR

Day 1 (21st September) Morning Session at the Gallery of Icons

11:00 – 12:00 Registration

12:00 – 13:00 Welcome greetings from the organisers

Milan Urbaník and Jozef Matula (OZ IKONY) – presentation to be delivered in person

Project “Greeks in Central Europe between the 15th and 20th Centuries” (Pavína Šípová and Jozef Matula)

Tereza Rehorčíková, Visegrad Fund – presentation to be delivered in person

Eva Lehečková, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University – pre-recorded video

Presentations by

Ioannis Chrysoulakis,

(Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs) – pre-recorded video

Georgios Dimitriadis,

Ambassador of Greece in Bratislava – pre-recorded recorded video

Athanassios Paressoglou,

Ambassador of Greece in Prague – online presentation

Antónios Theocharous,

Ambassador of Cyprus in Prague – online presentation

Lucie Kuligiová,

Czech Centre in Athens – online presentation

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch on the First Floor

14:15 – 15:00 Project Hellenopolonica

(Gosćiwit Malinowski)

15:00– 15:15 Break

Afternoon Session on the First Floor

Greeks and Greek sources in Central Europe between the 15th and 19th centuries

15:15 – 16:30 chair Gosćiwit Malinowski

Greeks and Greek sources in Hungary, 15th century (Péter Ekler)

Greek manuscripts in the National Library of the Czech Republic (Renáta Modráková ONLINE)

Greek traces in Prague of the 15th and 16th century (Pavína Šípová)

Greeks and Greek sources in Slovakia (Jozef Matula, Ivan Modoroši)

Discussion

19:00 Dinner

Day 2 (22nd September) Morning Session on the First Floor

Greeks and Greek sources in Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries

10:00 – 11:30 chair Kostas Tsivos, Nicole Sumelidou

Greeks in Vienna (18th–19th centuries) (Anna Ransmayr ONLINE)

Arrival, settlement, integration on the reception and integration process of Greek political refugees in Hungary (Nikosz Fokasz)

Discussion

Break 11:30-11:45

11:45–12:45 chair Nikosz Fokasz

Modern Greek Literature in Czech Translation (Nicole Sumelidu)

Greek communities in Czechoslovakia from 1948 to the present day (Kostas Tsivos)

Discussion

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon Session on the First Floor

14:00 – 16:00

Discussion and conclusions

Dinner

Day 3 (23st September) Morning Session at the Gallery of Icons

Greeks in Central Europe between the 15th and 20th Centuries

10:00 – 13:30 chair: Pavína Šípová, Jozef Matula

The Greek diaspora in Central Europe and the Medici Archive Project – Early Modern Greek Culture (Vasileios Syros)

Round table:

a) Greeks and Greek sources in Central Europe between the 15th and 20th centuries – What next?

b) Evaluation of current research in each Visegrad Country, and Austria, i.e. Most important research projects, research centers, research facilities, state / private support, teaching modern Greek at local universities etc.

c) Study in Greece (SiG): a short presentation (Theodoros Papaioannou – ONLINE)

Petr Balcárek

Petr Balcárek, Ph.D. et Ph.D. (Palacký University, Olomouc, CR and Orthodox Theology Faculty, Prešov, SR) is Director of the Institute for Byzantine and Eastern Christian Studies. His main research interests are Eastern-Christian theology, art, and architecture. He has published a considerable number of articles in periodicals such as *Studia Patristica*, *Byzantinoslavica*, *Byzantinoslavica*, *Palaeobulgarica*, *Eirene*, and others. Together with Vladimír Vavřínek, he is co-author of *Encyklopedie Byzance* (*Encyclopaedia of Byzantium*). *Mluva obrazů* (*The Language of Images*), published together with Rudolf Chadraba, includes his extensive study “Pelikán jako obraz a symbol” (*The Pelican as Image and Symbol*).

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The Impact of Greek Culture on the territories of modern Czech and Slovak Republics in the 15th – 20th centuries

This presentation proposes employing the methods of analysis used in cultural anthropology when determining the various degrees of acculturation of phenomena taken over from one culture into another. Examples will be given of the impact Greek theology, philosophy, architecture, art, folklore, and history had on the cultures in the territories of modern Czech Republic and Slovakia between 15th and 20th centuries, while bringing to light the complexity of the intertwining cultural influences in these lands.

Péter Ekler

Head of the Central Library, National Archives of Hungary (Budapest), PhD. in Doctoral School of Linguistics, Ancient Studies Doctoral Programme, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. – Thesis: *George of Trebizond's grammatical compendium based on Priscian's Institutiones*, 2009. Research topic: Latin grammars, Renaissance Humanism, *Bibliotheca Corviniana*

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Greeks and Greek sources in Hungary (15th cent.)

The paper will deal with the connections between Hungarian humanists and Georgius Trapezuntius Theodorus Gazes, Demetrius Chalcocondyles, Ioannes Argyropoulos.

Georgius Trapezuntius (1395–1471/72) with his own works and translations features in eight extant authentic Corvinas, thus is “the most frequent” author and translator of the *Bibliotheca Corviniana* (among 15th century authors and translators). Trapezuntius’s interest in Hungary and its people, as reflected in written documents, may be dated to the late 1460s, i.e. to the last years of his life. Although no direct acquaintance can be proved, it is obvious that Theodorus Gazes (ca. 1400–1475/76) had a major influence on Janus Pannonius (1434–1472), who rightly praised the Greek scholar’s familiarity with classical languages. Demetrius Chalcocondyles (1423–1511) was the historiographer Laonicus Chalcocondyles’s cousin. According to Ágnes Ritoókné Szalay, Chalcocondyles must have stayed in Buda for some time and must have had contact with Johannes de Zredna (Vitéz). Ioannes Argyropoulos’s (ca. 1415–1487) translations of Aristotle form a vital part of his lifework, some of which were printed out in the 15th century. The Göttingen Aristotle Corvina (*Libri physicorum VIII*) contains Argyropoulos’s interpretation dedicated to Cosimo Medici.

Nikosz Fokasz

Nikos Fokas, Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Head of MTA-ELTE-PERIPATO research group

Research fields: Comparison of Political and Social Development of Greece and Hungary Complex Social Systems, Dynamics of Public Discourse in Mass Media

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Arrival, settlement, integration on the reception and integration process of Greek political refugees in Hungary

The present study is based on dozens of interviews with former Greek political refugees in Hungary. Although members of the first generation considered Hungary as their second homeland, they preserved their original identity for the rest of their lives. Former residents of children's homes have formed more diverse identities. Many of them successfully integrated into Hungarian society, while others faced a new integration challenge when they returned to Greece. The planned study aims to contribute to this picture with some specific features.

Jozef Matula

Jozef Matula worked as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Philosophy at the Palacky University in the Czech Republic (1997-2021). Since January 2021 he has been working for the Gallery of Icons in Žilina (Slovakia). He specializes in Medieval and Renaissance philosophy, history of tolerance and Byzantine art. He has done research at The Warburg Institute (University of London) in London, Villa I Tatti (Harvard University) in Florence and Athens (the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation). He was teaching as a full professor at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea (2013-2015).

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Ivan Modoroši

Ivan Modoroši studied theology and philosophy at the Comenius University in Bratislava and the Catholic University in Ružomberok. His PhD. thesis dealt with Sophiology in the thinking of Solovyov, Florensky and Bulgakov in the context of interreligious dialogue. He was head of the Department of Religious Studies at the Catholic University in Ružomberok and currently works as a lecturer at the University of Trnava. His scientific interest includes Russian Christian spirituality and interreligious dialogue.

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Greeks and Greek sources in Slovakia

The paper deals with the presence of Greek merchants on today's territory of Slovakia in the period of 17th – 18th century. Although the influence of Greek merchants was not as strong as in other parts of Hungary, Balkan traders played an important role in the economics of this area. In the second part of the contribution we show the occurrence of Greek manuscripts in Slovakia.

Gościwit Malinowski

A full professor in the Department of Greek Philology of the Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies at the University of Wrocław. Author of books and papers on ancient Greek literature, historiography, geography (e.g. Strabo, Agatharchides), Polish-Greek relations (Hellenopolonica. Miniatures from Greek-Polish history) and Sino-Western relations in ancient, medieval and early modern world (he participates in the project of critical edition of 'Historia Sinarum' by Tomasz Dunin-Szpot). Honored with the Lord Byron Medal by the Society for Hellenism and Philhellenism (2021).

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Hellenopolonica

The baptism of Mieszko I, the first duke of Poland, in Roman ritualistic tradition forged a permanent link between Poland and the Roman world. For ten centuries Latin was used in Polish churches, schools and officialdom, and contributed to the creation of a national culture and literature. It dominated the Polish national identity. This is well established. The Hellenopolonica project is concerned with the less popularized connections between Poland and the Greek world. The Greek language was present in Poland from the times of the first Piasts, with its significance reaching its apogee in the sixteenth and at the beginning of the seventeenth centuries, during the times of Sigismund III Vasa. Although the Greek element was never comparable with the Armenian or Italian diasporas, the Greeks travelled across and settled in ancient Poland, complementing its image of a multicultural Republic. From the era of Constantine Porphyrogenitus, Poland attracted the attention of the Greek world. Hellenopolonica will recall and explore the Greek aspects of Polish history.

In the course of working on Hellenopolonica, we constantly asked ourselves questions about the borders of Poland, about Polish identity, about what *natio Polona* meant in the twelfth or fifteenth or eighteenth centuries, what the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth actually is, and how to describe the ethnically diverse nation that once was the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland or the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, when the state no longer existed in the nineteenth century. We do not want to attach our neighbours or kin to Polish historical events, or to chip away at someone else's past. But we also do not want to give up any particular episode from the Republic's affairs just because someone claims exclusive ownership of it today.

The more we reflect on the geographical area in which we are interested, about the territories of Central and Eastern Europe and the peoples native to those lands, whose fates were entwined with Greece and Greek people, the more we realise that there are no clear borders. No entanglements, barbed wire or ploughed land in the style of a Soviet zone.

But rather a wide strip of borderland, without customs officers or control posts, where with greater distances travelled certain phenomena slowly, slowly disappear, whereas others are magnified. In the East there is no way of precisely determining where Hellenopolonica passes into Hellenolithuanica or Hellenorossica. Two Polish regents – Casimir III the Great and Hedwig of Anjou – decided to bind inextricably the heritages of the Piasts and the Rurik Dynasty and the Gediminids into one political body. From the time of their rule (1340/1386) the Ruthenian lands come into the scope of our interests; however, we must, regrettably, concede that the earlier times of Greek colonies on the Black Sea, the invasions of Constantinople by the Varangian Norsemen, and the religious and cultural interrelations of Byzantium and Rus' from the era of Saints Olga and Vladimir to the times of Algirdas and Liubartas, are beyond the scope of our project.

The simplest way to understand what the Republic and its ethnically varied nation was by contrasting its civilization with those which are fundamentally different. It is easiest to understand oneself through looking at others. In the East our world ended at the spot where the Tatar Khanates and Muscovy originated. Our kindred Slavs, confessing to the same religion as the majority of inhabitants of Lithuanian lands, created in Zalesye a state which was the antithesis of the Republic. The values and ideology of Muscovy contradict the Republic's values. The Greeks played their own important part in the creation of Muscovy and later the Russian Empire, but we will leave Muscovite affairs to one side, except maybe for when they bear some connection with our story – and we are not short of instances of this.

In the West Hellenopolonica is by no means intended to separate ourselves from what we might call, in the style of Martin Crusius, 'Germano-Graecia'. Polish-German relations in the Middle Ages and the early modern era were unusually strong and profound, mostly peaceful, and brought new ideas and technology to the Polish lands, along with prosperity and civilizational advances, as well as tens of thousands of loyal, trustworthy and devoted citizens to Poland - Zawisza the Black, and Nicolaus Copernicus, to name but two. Unfortunately, historical memory feeds more on the anti-Polish actions of the Teutonic Knights, the Brandenburgians or the Luxemburgians, but every decisive influence was on the part of the Germans when it came to building their modern, united nation upon a historical framework of aggressive and anti-Polish ideology. In our project we have decided to take into account all those writing in Greek, as well as those humanists with knowledge of Greek *Teutonico gente*, whether or not they had any ties with the Republic – for instance, through lecturing or studying at the Krakow Academy, or those who dedicated their Greek works to the great and the good of the Republic. Silesia and Pomerania, despite the fact that they were inhabited in large part by both Polish and Slavic peoples, remained for centuries outside the body of the Republic; and that is why we will also be dealing with the outstanding Hellenist Jerzy Liban – because he lectured at Krakow, and not because he came from Lignica, which was still Piast in his time.

Renáta Modráková

Renáta Modráková studied History and Auxiliary Historical Sciences at the Faculty of Arts (Charles University). She is the manuscript specialist in the National Library of the Czech Republic. Her research interests include medieval palaeography and codicology, history of medieval Bohemian libraries and written culture of Bohemian Benedictine convents. She is interested in the popularization of Medieval Book Culture and Digital Humanities.

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Greek manuscripts in the National Library of the Czech Republic

The Czech National Library has an interesting collection of medieval and early modern manuscripts, mainly in Latin, Czech and German language, and a much smaller collection in other languages. Though many of these manuscripts have been digitized, it is still important to study the non-digitized volumes. An interesting group of manuscripts containing Greek texts is to be found in shelf marks I-XV, coming mainly from former university libraries and the Jesuit library in Prague. These texts were used especially for teaching (and learning) of grammar and rhetoric. I focus among others on less known shelf mark VIII.

Anna Ransmayr

Anna Ransmayr studied Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Classical Philology (Ancient Greek) and Library and Information Studies at the University of Vienna. Her PhD thesis deals with the history of the Greek communities in Habsburg Vienna. She is the head librarian of the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Library at Vienna University Library. Her research interests include the history of the Greek diaspora, the Modern Greek Enlightenment and the history of the Habsburg Monarchy (18th-19th centuries).

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Greeks in Vienna (18th–19th centuries)

In my presentation I will give an overview of the presence of the Greek population in Vienna during the 18th and 19th centuries. Greek merchants started coming to Vienna following the peace treaties of Karlowitz (1699) and Passarowitz (1718) between the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empires. During the 18th century the number of Greek merchants from the Ottoman lands in Vienna gradually increased and reached its heyday in the years after the turn of the 19th century. They organised themselves in two separate religious communities (of the Ottoman and of the Austrian subjects) and became an important economic force. Their trade relations of course also included other regions of today's Austria (especially Lower Austria), but the capital city of Vienna was not only the most important place for their trade, but also one where they settled down and the only place where they founded communities. Following the Congress of Vienna (1815), their numbers declined significantly. After traditional overland trade from the Balkans to Vienna came to an end in the 2nd half of the 19th century, the Greek communities only consisted of a small number of members, while at the same time there were high numbers of other new orthodox immigrants to Vienna. The dissolution of the Habsburg Empire in 1918 was a turning point for Vienna's Greek population, as it marked a shift in the demographic and social structure of the Greek immigrant communities, which from this point on was no longer dominated by the traditional "Balkan orthodox merchants".

Milan Ristović

Graduated from the Department of Contemporary History, Faculty of Philosophy University of Belgrade. In 1981, he received his M.A. degree in history from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. In 1991, he received his PhD. from the same institution for his dissertation entitled: The German "New Order" and Southeastern Europe, 1940/41- 1944/45: Experience and Plans for the Future (published 1991).

Between 1978 and 1989 he worked as a lecturer at the Institute for Contemporary History, Belgrade. In 1990 joined the Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History. Elected assistant professor 1991; 1998 associate professor, 2002 full professor. Head of the History department 2002–2004; from 2004 chief of the Chair for General Modern History at the same Faculty. He taught cultural history in the doctoral studies programme of the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade, and was a visiting professor at the University of Banja Luka (BiH).

By Institute für Europäische Geschichte, Mainz, in 1984 and 1987, awarded fellowship on project "The Third Reich and Southeastern Europe in WW II". In 1992 awarded scholarship by Österreichisches Ost- und Südosteuropa Institut, Vienna; in 1995. scholarship by the Arbeitsstelle für Vergleichende Geschichte, F.U. Berlin; In 1996. DAAD scholarship. In 2002. Alexander S. Onassis scholarship, Athens. 2014, scholarship at Imre Kertesz-Kolleg, Jena 2014, 2022. Researches in: BA-Koblenz und Berlin, PA AA, Bonn und Berlin, BA/Militär - Archiv Freiburg i. Brg, Arhiv der Republik, Vienna, Public Record Office, London, Arhiv of the Greek Foreign Ministry, ELIAMEP, Athens.

Attended a number of international historical conferences and gave lectures by invitation at a number of foreign universities and institutes and participated in several international scientific projects. He is a member of the editorial board for South East Europe of the Internet Encyclopedia of the First World War. 2010–2016, member of Imre Kertesz-Kolleg Gremium, Friedrich Schiller-University, Jena, Germany. President of the Scientific Council for the Centre of Museology and Heritology, and President of the Publishing Board of the Museum of Yugoslavia. He was a member of the International scientific council of the magazine Südost-Forschungen (Munich), Dvadesati stoleti (Prag), and Stude si articole istorie (Bucharest). Member of Academia Europea, Tokovi istorije and Vojnoistorijski glasnik (Belgrade).

From 1994, cofounder and managing editor of scientific journal Godišnjak za društvenu istoriju (Annual of Social History). From 1998 President of the Society for Social History, Belgrade. He was awarded the Konstantin Jireček-Prize for 2018.

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Greek Refugees in Yugoslavia 1945–1950

The waves of modern Greek (e)migration in the 20th century were driven by numerous political crises, economic instability, and wars (1st and 2nd Balkan War, First World War, Greco-Turkish War, World War II). The Civil war, especially its "third round" between 1946–1949, played a special role in creating a new wave of refugees and emigration. This article will discuss the various fates of refugees and (political) emigration from Greece in the complex context of Yugoslav-Greek relations from the end of World War II to the early 1950s. The fate of two special categories will be especially considered: children evacuated from Greece to Yugoslavia (about 12,000), and – the organization of the Greek emigrant community in Buljke in Vojvodina. This issue was one of the unavoidable, difficult topics in the relations between the Greek royal government and Yugoslavia, but it has gained an important place in the propaganda war since the beginning of the conflict between the YCP and the Cominform countries on both sides. The efforts of the Yugoslav state to provide conditions for the reception and life of refugees in the difficult conditions after the war destruction of 1941–1945, as well as the issue of repatriation and the further fate of refugees will be discussed.

Pavína Šípová

Pavína Šípová (Institute of Greek and Latin Studies, Charles University, Prague) studied Classical Greek and Modern Greek Philology, and the doctoral programme Theory and History of Arts and Culture. Her scientific interests relate to literature, drama and translation theory. She has published articles on these subjects in journals, collective volumes, and a monograph including: 'Staging of Classical Drama around 2000', Choricus' Apologia mimorum, 'Aristophanes Avant-garde', 'Who Laughs Beardless? – Spanos: A Byzantine Popular Text in the Form of Parody and Satire', 'L'Odyssee de la litterature contemporaine grecque en Bohême,' 'Cyprus in the Transformations of the 15th and 16th Centuries through the Eyes of the Czech Pilgrims.' She collaborates with Arc-Net (European Network of Research and Documentation of Performances of Ancient Drama), Inspiral (Interactive Historical Geography Project), and Centre for the Greek Language – (Modern Greek literature in translation). She is a member of the Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies and of the editorial board of the journal Neograeca Bohemica.

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Greek traces in Prague of the 15th and 16th Century

My presentation focuses on one of the most significant documents between Prague and Constantinople of the 15th Century and one of the most important Greek personalities in Prague of the 16th Century.

Vasileios Syros

Dr Syros holds the Greek Chair (endowed by the Government of the Hellenic Republic), Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India). His areas of interest include the history of medieval and early modern political ideas (Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions), the reception of ancient Greek thought in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and the history of the Greek diaspora in Italy. Dr. Syros also serves as the Director of the Early Modern Greek Culture Program at The Medici Archive Project (Florence, Italy), holds a concurrent appointment as Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for European Global Studies at the University of Basel, and is Life Member of Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge. He is the editor of the book series *Medieval and Early Modern Europe and the World* (Brepols) and *Edinburgh Studies in Comparative Political Theory and Intellectual History* (Edinburgh University Press).

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The Greek Diaspora in Central Europe and The Medici Archive Project – Early Modern Greek Culture Program

This presentation will explore avenues for future research into the history of the Greek diaspora in Central Europe and Italy. More specifically, I will engage in a comparative investigation of the various factors that underpinned early modern debates on Greek identity and perceptions of ancient Greece and the Byzantine legacy. I will also trace links between the Greek communities in Italy and Central Europe and revisit their contribution to cross-cultural contact and dialogue between Europe and non-Western societies, especially the Islamic world.

Konstantinos Tsivos

Dr. Konstantinos Tsivos is Associate Professor at the Institute of Greek and Latin Studies and the head of Modern Greek Studies of the Faculty for Arts, Charles University in Prague. He also teaches at the Institute of Classics Studies in Masaryk University, Brno. His courses range from topics of new and modern Greek History, to Greek Realities, to the Byzantine History and courses of modern Greek language. He is the author or co-author of books and articles in journals in Greek, Czech and English concerned with modern Greek History, Greek Crisis and Czech-Greek relations. He has also translated into modern Greek numerous well-known Czech authors of both literature and history.

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Greek communities in Czechoslovakia from 1948 to the present day

The majority of the Greek presence in Czechoslovakia is linked to the Greek Civil War (1946-49). This presentation aims to cover the most important stages in the development of the Greek community in Czechoslovakia, from their arrival to the present day. It focuses on issues such as the formation of the identity of the refugees, integration and co-habitation with Czech society, and touches on the issue of repatriation and the situation of the communities after 1989. It also briefly examines the current phenomenon of brain drain from Greece to the Czech Republic.

Nicole Votavová Sumelidisová

Nicole Votavová Sumelidisová studied Classical and Modern Greek Language and Classical Archaeology. She currently teaches Modern Greek Literature and Greek Language at the Masaryk University in Brno and focuses mainly on interwar Greek avant-garde. She also translates Modern Greek literature.

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Modern Greek Literature in Czech Translation

The aim of this paper is to present the translations of Modern Greek literature into Czech, to place them in the context of the translation policy in Czechoslovakia and later the Czech Republic, to briefly evaluate selected translations and to introduce some translators. I would also like to focus on the relationship between the Greek poet Giannis Ritsos and Czechoslovakia, his two stays in our country, the translations of his poetry into Czech, but also his *Anthology of Czech and Slovak Poets in Greek translation* (prepared together with the translator Marie Stříbrná) and his collaboration with the Union of Czechoslovak Writers.