

EDITOR'S NOTE

Études helléniques/Hellenic Studies was published for the first time in spring 1983. In that first issue we wrote:

Research and dialogue in the social sciences as such have never been in the forefront of the mainstream Greek society. A variety of reasons have been offered for this seeming lack of interest in the social research field, the primary being some kind of "socio-political conspiracy" on the part of the conservative elites that have governed Greece almost exclusively since Independence. As a matter of fact, it is not accidental that neither sociology, psychology nor education faculties exist in Greek universities, where systematic research on political and historical issues has been minimal. Numerous scholars have pointed out that in-depth research and analyses of the different socio-political issues prevailing in Greek society have been repeatedly avoided or even stifled altogether. Only very few instances exist where individual efforts have challenged this traditional indifference towards unraveling the mechanisms and processes underlying the very structures and functioning of the entire Greek social apparatus. In addition, the mere fact that Greece spends the least money in terms of percentage of GNP of all European and developing nations for research is one more indication of the low priority placed on social sciences investigation.

On the other hand, as has been documented throughout the existing literature, almost "another Greece" exists outside Greece proper. The so-called Apodimoi Hellenes or the Greek diaspora may be found all over the globe, and more so in the large industrialized countries of the Western world, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, West Germany, and Sweden, to name a few. Research and social interest about the millions of Greek immigrants on the part of "metropolitan Greece" has been virtually non-existent, with the exception of a few unsystematic descriptive accounts for mainly administrative purposes. Whatever studies do exist about Greek immigrants around the world are the exclusive work of scholars of the Greek diaspora and organizations of Greek immigrants themselves, or even, in some instances, of non Greek scholars working within the overall field of ethnic relations. This trend, towards investigating different ethnic parameters, has intensified over the last twenty years or so among the immigrant-receiving societies.

By acknowledging and sharing the positive contribution of all efforts of Greek and non-Greek scholars who have somehow been, involved in the studying of Greek issues around the globe, Études helléniques/Hellenic

Studies aims to offer one more concrete challenge within the social sciences field. *Études helléniques/Hellenic Studies* begins its publication with the sincere and ambitious goal of becoming the international academic forum of dialogue and exchange of ideas among all scholars dealing with the multifaceted issues prevailing among the Hellenes of the entire world.

Of course since 1983 much water has flowed under the bridge. As a matter of fact, in Greece progress has been made in numerous fields of study and research in the social sciences, especially in sociology, psychology, education and political science. There is now an openness within the Greek universities. Research institutions have also appeared since 1983. Nevertheless in all these fields much has yet to be accomplished in order to go further and be compared on an equal footing with other developed countries.

In 1985 the publication of this journal was interrupted for various reasons, but we returned even stronger in 1994. Our goal as set in 1983 was to become an international academic forum for dialogue and the exchange of ideas among all scholars dealing with the multifaceted issues of Hellenic studies (culture, society, politics, economy, diaspora, etc.). We still have the same mission. In fact, our publication in English and French has always sought to pursue the cooperation and contribution of the finest experts on Greek issues inside and outside Greece proper. This goal also remains.

After so many years of publishing by the Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research Canada-KEEK, we are pleased that as of this issue we are entering into a new era in cooperation with the Centre of Intercultural and Migration Studies-EDIAMME of the Department of Primary Education of the University of Crete and the Post-Graduate Program (Cultural, Economic and International Relations in the Mediterranean), of the Department of Mediterranean Studies at the University of the Aegean. This trilateral cooperation will permit us to continue publishing this academic journal, which has become an international reference on issues of Hellenic studies. With a new élan, we will continue focussing on the same ambitious goal - provide an international academic forum for dialogue and the exchange of ideas among all scholars researching the multifaceted field of Hellenic studies.

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