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BELGRADE
2009
on connaît l’extrême complexité du sujet et
l’ignorance tout aussi grande dans lequel
celui est tenu en Occident ; mais la réus-
site de l’entreprise est complète et remar-
quable à tous égards. Bataković possède,
en effet, une souveraine maîtrise de toutes
les données historiques ; il l’a démontrée
dans ses livres précédents publiés en fran-
çais chez le même éditeur depuis 1993
d’abord « Yougoslavie. Nation, religions,
idoles » , puis « Kosovo. La spirale de
la haine » et enfin l’ouvrage collectif « His-
toire du peuple serbe »). Avec le temps,
son savoir ne repose plus seulement sur
les livres et les archives, mais aussi sur les
réalités brutes qu’il a éprouvées, dans le cas
du Kosovo, comme conseiller de l’Eglise
orthodoxe serbe à propos du projet por-
tant sur le statut de la région et la prote-
ction de l’héritage culturel serbe ; comme
membre aussi de l’équipe de négociation
de Belgrade dans les derniers pourparlers
de Vienne ; et aussi comme ambassadeur
de son pays.

Le livre « Kosovo : un conflit sans
fin ? » couronne, en vérité, un travail de
plus de vingt ans au service de deux pas-
sions : celle que l’historien a nourrie pour
son métier, et celle que l’auteur éprouve
pour le Kosovo, dont sa famille est origi-
naire et qui est demeurée pour lui la plus
belle des provinces serbes en raison de ses
trésors spirituels et artistiques. C’est par le
Kosovo que Bataković a entamé, en 1983
(il avait alors 26 ans), sa carrière d’his-
torien, et c’est sur ce terrain qu’il a livré
ses batailles les plus rudes contre ce qu’il
a appelé avec pudeur : « La manipulation
des faits historiographiques à des fins po-
litiques ». Son livre constitue à cet égard
une somme qui défie toute concurrence et
mérite d’être largement connue.

In Memoriam Ioannis A. Papadrianos (1931–2009)

by Milan Ristović*

Ioannis A. Papadrianos, a historian and
balkanologist, passed away in Thessalon-
iki on the second day of 2009. Throughout
his career, from 1961 when he chose to
discontinue his postgraduate studies in
Munich undertaken a year before and to
resume them at the School of Philoso-
phy in Belgrade, Ioannis Papadrianos was
closely connected with the Serbian aca-
demic community, where his outspoken,
warm-hearted nature and unconcealed
sympathies for Belgrade and Serbia
earned him a wide circle of colleagues
and friends.

Papadrianos was born in 1931 at
Drepano near Naflion in the Pelopo-
nesus. His early youth and school days in
his birthplace and Naflion were marked
by the hardships and deprivation of the
Second World War under the Italian
and German occupation, and of the en-
suing civil war (1946–1949). In 1951 he
enrolled at the Faculty of Philosophy
in Thessaloniki to study history and ar-
chaeology, and graduated in 1956. What
greatly contributed to the thoroughness
of his education was the fact that he had
the opportunity to attend the lectures of
some of the then leading Greek profes-
sors of history and archaeology, such as
Vakalopoulos, Laskaris and Politis.

Papadrianos completed the post-
graduate programme in Byzantine studies
in Belgrade (1961–1963), as one of the
first Greek holders of a Yugoslav govern-
ment scholarship. For a few years (until
1967) he was an employee at the Greek
Embassy in Belgrade. In early 1968 he
was elected a member of the Institute for

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grade
Balkan Studies (IMXA) in Thessaloniki, the institution that most of his activity as a researcher and scholar was associated with. For a time, he taught Serbian at the IMXA School of Balkan Languages.

He was appointed lecturer in Balkan history at the Department of History and Archaeology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1988, and later on continued his academic career at the Democritus University of Thrace in Komotini, wherefrom he retired.

Papadrianos's scholarly interest shifted from the late Byzantine towards later periods, but his focus had always been on relations between the Greek-speaking world and its northern South-Slavic neighbourhood. After the initial interest in Byzantium, he embarked upon lifelong and wide-ranging research into the history of the Greek diaspora in South-Slavic areas. Thus the Greek community in Zemun in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was the central subject of his doctoral thesis defended in 1985 at the Department of History and Archaeology of Aristotle University.

Serbian historiography is indebted to Papadrianos for the many reviews of the books of Serbian authors he published in Greek specialist journals. He was among the initiators of cooperation between the Serbian and Greek historians and balkanologists, and a contributor to most of their six joint conferences. Furthermore, his texts published in the Greek press during the 1990s helped the Greek public to understand the complex historical backdrop against which the Yugoslav crisis was unfolding.

In addition to the numerous studies and articles Papadrianos contributed to Serbian scholarly journals, in 2007 he published the monograph Greeks on Serbian soil translated into Serbian by M. Stojanović (Grci na srpskom tlu). He devoted the last years of his life to working intensively on a multi-volume history of the Balkans, which he unfortunately was unable to finish. Energetic and dynamic both in private and in academic life, he was a true lover of the history of the Balkans. What he leaves behind are not only significant scholarly results, but also many friends and colleagues. His Belgrade friends will remember him with affection and respect.