ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
Αρ. Πρωτ. 1149 Ημερομηνία 28.7.03

Κων/νος Γ. Γιακουμή
Αχαρνών 37, Κηφισιά, 145-61, Αθήνα και
Kryepeshkopata Orthodhokse
Rr. e Kavajës 151, Tiranë, Albania
Τηλ.: 0030-6942-989195 και
00355-692-486803
E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr και
kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

Πέμπτη 24 Ιουλίου 2003

Αξιότιμε κύριε Πρόεδρε,

Σας ευχαριστώ πολύ για την πρόσκλησή σας να παρουσιάσω ενώπιον του Δ.Σ. το πρόγραμμα καταγραφής και μελέτης των ορθόδοξων μνημείων στην Αλβανία. Οι παρατηρήσεις των μελών του Δ.Σ. και των προσκεκλημένων αρχιτεκτόνων – αναστηλωτών ελήφθησαν υπόψη.

Σύμφωνα, λοιπόν, με τις οδηγίες του Δ.Σ. σας αποστέλλω την παρούσα επιστολή υποδεικνύοντας δύο τρόπους με τους οποίους η Ελληνική Εταιρεία για την Προστασία του Περιβάλλοντος και της Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς μπορεί να μας βοηθήσει στο πρόγραμμα καταγραφής και μελέτης των ορθόδοξων μνημείων στην Αλβανία.

Πρώτον, θα επιθυμούσαμε η Εταιρεία να εκφράσει και επισήμως το ενδιαφέρον και την ηθική υποστήριξή της στο πρόγραμμα αυτό μέσω επιστολής που μπορεί να αποστείλει στην ανωτέρω διεύθυνση· η υποστήριξη αυτή, πιστεύουμε, θα αποτελέσει πλεονέκτημα κατά την υποβολή των αιτήσεών μας προς ευρωπαϊκούς χρηματοδοτικούς φορείς. Στην περίπτωση που εγκριθεί το πρόγραμμα, τότε θα ήταν τιμή μας να ενημερώναμε περιοδικώς την Εταιρεία για την πρόοδο των ερευνών μας και να κερδίζαμε από την εμπειρία των μελών της.

Δεύτερον, θα θέλαμε να επωφελούμαστε από την ενεργό συμμετοχή της Εταιρείας σε σημαντικές διεθνείς οργανώσεις, όπως η Europa Nostra/IBI, προκειμένου να παρακαμφθούν κυβερνητικά εμπόδια που ήδη εμποδίζουν την εφαρμογή ενός πιλοτικού προγράμματος συνεργασίας της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας με το Ινστιτούτο Μνημείων της Αλβανικής Δημοκρατίας. Το πρόγραμμα αυτό, το οποίο συνίσταται στην καταγραφή των εικονογραφικών προγραμμάτων ιστορημένων μνημείων της περιοχής Αργυροκάστρου, ενώ έχει εκπονηθεί και προετοιμασθεί ενδελεχώς από τον Μάρτιο του 2003, δεν έχει πραγματοποιηθεί μέχρι σήμερα λόγω της κωλυσιεργίας ή απροθυμίας του αλβανικού Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού να εγκρίνει το πρόγραμμα. Σημειωτέον ότι για το πρόγραμμα αυτό υπάρχει διαθέσιμη η σχετική χρηματοδότηση και από τους δύο συμμετέχοντες φορείς και, συνεπώς, η έγκριση από το Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού είναι τυπική, αλλά, δυστυχώς, επιβεβλημένη στο ανωτέρω Ινστιτούτο από το νέο νόμο περί πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς. Πιστεύουμε ότι παρόμοια εμπόδια είναι πιθανόν να εμφανιστούν και στο μέλλον.

Τρίτον, προτιθέμεθα να χρησιμοποιήσουμε το ενδιαφέρον μελών της Εταιρείας για παροχή επιστημονικών συμβουλών επί των προς εκπόνηση μελετών του προγράμματος αναστηλώσεων.

Αναμένοντας επί τούτων τις αποφάσεις σας,

Διατελώ,

Δρ. Κ. Γιακουμής

ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ
Τριπόδων 28 Αθήνα 105 58 Τηλ.: 32 25 245, 32 26 693 Fax: 32 25 240
e-mail:mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr

Κωνσταντίνος Γιακουμής
58 Kitchener Road, Selly Park
B29 7QD, Birmingham
England

Αθήνα, 8.10.2001
Αρ. Πρωτ. 157 Ε.Ε.

Αγαπητέ κ. Γιακουμή,

Καταρχάς θα ήθελα εγώ και η σύζυγός μου να σας συγχαρούμε για τη συμμετοχή σας στην πραγματοποίηση του προγράμματος καταγραφής και μελέτης των μνημείων της ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας, που απετέλεσε πρωτοβουλία του μακαριοτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Τιράνων και πάσης Αλβανίας κ.κ. Αναστασίου. Πρόκειται για μια σπουδαία επιστημονική εργασία, η οποία κατά πρώτον θα συμβάλλει στη διάσωση των ορθοδόξων αυτών μνημείων και κατά δεύτερον θα προωθήσει τη συστηματική έρευνά τους.

Με μεγάλη χαρά να σας συναντήσουμε και να συζητήσουμε αναλυτικότερα το παραπάνω πρόγραμμα, το οποίο εμπίπτει στα ενδιαφέροντα της Ελληνικής Εταιρείας και ιδιαίτερα του Ειδικού Συμβουλίου της που ασχολείται με την αρχιτεκτονική κληρονομιά. Θα ήταν μάλιστα πολύ ενδιαφέρον να παρουσιάζατε, όταν θα βρίσκετε στην Αθήνα, το πρόγράμμα στο Συμβούλιο Αρχιτεκτονικής Κληρονομιάς που συνεδριάζει κάθε Πέμπτη και αποτελείται από αρχιτέκτονες, αρχαιολόγους, ιστορικούς, δικηγόρους κ.ά. Η καταλληλότερη ημερομηνία για τη συνάντησή μας μπορεί να ορισθεί με ένα τηλεφώνημα σας στην κα Γρατσία Ειρήνη (3225245, 0973-308857) , αφού φθάσετε στην Αθήνα.

Τελειώνοντας θα ήθελα να σας ευχαριστήσω για το φυλλάδιο και να σας ζητήσω να μεταβιβάσετε τις ευχές μας στον Μακαριότατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Τιράνων και πάσης Αλβανίας κ.κ. Αναστάσιο και στον καθηγητή κ. A. Bryer.

Με εκτίμηση

Κώστας Καρράς

Κώστας Καρράς
Πρόεδρος της Ε.Ε.

ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ
Τριπόδων 28 Αθήνα 105 58 Τηλ.: 32 25 245, 32 26 693 Fax: 32 25 240
e-mail:mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr

Κωνσταντίνος Γιακουμής
58 Kitchener Road, Selly Park
B29 7QD, Birmingham
England

Αθήνα, 8.10.2001
Αρ. Πρωτ. ΕΣΠΕ.Ε.

Αγαπητέ κ. Γιακουμή,

Καταρχάς θα ήθελα εγώ και η σύζυγός μου να σας συγχαρούμε για τη συμμετοχή σας στην πραγματοποίηση του προγράμματος καταγραφής και μελέτης των μνημείων της ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας, που απετέλεσε πρωτοβουλία του μακαριοτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Τιράνων και πάσης Αλβανίας κ.κ. Αναστασίου. Πρόκειται για μια σπουδαία επιστημονική εργασία, η οποία κατά πρώτον θα συμβάλλει στη διάσωση των ορθοδόξων αυτών μνημείων και κατά δεύτερον θα προωθήσει τη συστηματική έρευνά τους.

Με μεγάλη χαρά να σας συναντήσουμε και να συζητήσουμε αναλυτικότερα το παραπάνω πρόγραμμα, το οποίο εμπίπτει στα ενδιαφέροντα της Ελληνικής Εταιρείας και ιδιαίτερα του Ειδικού Συμβουλίου της που ασχολείται με την αρχιτεκτονική κληρονομιά. Θα ήταν μάλιστα πολύ ενδιαφέρον να παρουσιάζατε, όταν θα βρίσκετε στην Αθήνα, το πρόγράμμα στο Συμβούλιο Αρχιτεκτονικής Κληρονομιάς που συνεδριάζει κάθε Πέμπτη και αποτελείται από αρχιτέκτονες, αρχαιολόγους, ιστορικούς, δικηγόρους κ.ά. Η καταλληλότερη ημερομηνία για τη συνάντησή μας μπορεί να ορισθεί με ένα τηλεφώνημα σας στην κα Γρατσία Ειρήνη (3225245, 0973-308857) , αφού φθάσετε στην Αθήνα.

Constantinos Giakoumis
58 Kitchener Road, Selly Park
B29 7QD, Birmingham
ENGLAND
Tel.: 0044-121-4712395
e-mail: k.giakoumis@bham.ac.uk

Παρασκευή 14 Σεπτεμβρίου 2001
τῆς Ἀνυψώσεως τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ Ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ

Αξιότιμοι κύριε Κώστα και κυρία Λυδία Καρρά,

είμαι μεταπτυχιακός επί διδακτορία φοιτητής του Κέντρου Βυζαντινών, Οθωμανικών και Νεοελληνικών Σπουδών του Πανεπιστημίου Μπέρμιγχαμ, όπου συνεργάζομαι με τον καθηγητή κ. A. Bryer. Έχω ολοκληρώσει τη γραφή της διατριβής μου (αγγλιστί) με θέμα «*Τα μεταβυζαντινά μοναστήρια ως θέσμια και ως μνημεία: οι περιπτώσεις των μονών Γεωργουτσατίου και Βανίστης στη Δρόπολη, και Σπηλαίου στη Λιούντζη Αργυροκάστρου (16ος-19ος αιώνας)*» και στην παρούσα φάση μορφοποιώ και επιμελούμαι την εργασία μου, προκειμένου να καταθέσω μέχρι το τέλος Οκτωβρίου του παρόντος έτους. Από το 1992 συμμετέχω ενεργά σε αποστολές έρευνας των μνημείων της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας, καθώς και σε εκδόσεις σχετικών βιβλίων και άρθρων.

Ο καθηγητής κ. A. Bryer, αφού με ενημέρωσε για τα ενδιαφέροντά σας σε θέματα βυζαντινολογίας και μεταβυζαντινολογίας υπό παμβαλκανική έποψη, με ενεθάρρυνε να ζητήσω συνάντηση μαζί σας, προκειμένου να σας ενημερώσω για το Πρόγραμμα Καταγραφής και Μελέτης των Μνημείων της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας, το οποίο σε συνεργασία με άλλους ειδικούς συντονίζω υπό την ευλογία και σκέπη του Μακαριωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Τιράνων και πάσης Αλβανίας κ.κ. ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΟΥ. Περί τούτου, λοιπόν, λαμβάνω κατ' αρχήν το θάρρος να σας απευθύνω την επιστολή αυτή ζητώντας συνάντηση μαζί σας κατά το διάστημα που θα βρίσκομαι στην Αθήνα, δηλαδή είτε το Νοέμβριο είτε στο τέλος του έτους. Ο κ. Bryer μού έδωσε εκτός από τη διεύθυνσή σας και τα τηλέφωνα του γραφείου σας στην Πλάκα, όπου θα μπορούσα να σας τηλεφωνήσω προκειμένου να ορίσετε το χρόνο της συνάντησης.

Δραττόμενος της ευκαιρίας της προκαταρκτικής αυτής επιστολής, σας συνάπτω την (προ)τελική μορφή ενός φυλλαδίου, όπως προχείρως το εκτύπωσα στον προσωπικό μου εκτυπωτή, που με την ευλογία του Μακαριωτάτου θα εκδίδεται στην Αρχιεπισκοπή και θα συνοψίζει το έργο της Ομάδας Έρευνας έπειτα από έκαστη έρευνα πεδίου. Επιφυλασσόμενος, τέλος, να σας στείλω το φυλλάδιο αυτό στην οριστική, τυπωμένη του μορφή, όπως -πρώτα ο Θεός- θα εκδοθεί από την Αρχιεπισκοπή,

διατελώ με εκτίμηση,

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
Αρ. Πρωτ. 988 Ημερομηνία 20.6.03
ΦΟΚ

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis
Kryepeshkopata Ortodokse
Rr. e Kavajës, Tiranë, Albania
Tel.: 00355-692-486803
0030-6942-989195
E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr and
kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

Sunday, 08/06/2003

Dear sir/madam,

A week ago we sent you an appeal requesting funds for conservation of the Ardenicë Monastery. However, in reconsidering the cover letter accompanying our request, we felt that the social importance of the monastery was rather underrepresented. For this reason we thought it expedient to send you this additional letter, in order to further emphasise to the social role of the monastery not only for the local region, but also for Albania as a whole.

Following the fall of the communist regime and ideology (1991), the Albanian society was left with an ongoing spiritual vacuum. Albanians believe that it is easier to construct roads and houses and to resolve basic energy problems, than to change old mentalities and fill the inner spiritual vacuum. The crisis of the spiritual values in Albania has affected social institutions, such as the family, the school and the interrelations among people. Especially the youth suffers from despair and a lack of hope, while increasingly more young people believe that Albania has no future. It is for these very reasons why religious communities are very important in seeking solutions to these problems.

Thanks to its geographic position, historical importance and spiritual irradiation, the Ardenicë Monastery attracts thousands of pilgrims and visitors every year. These come from different ethnic, religious, social and economic backgrounds. People of all ages, from childhood to senescence, in an organised or non-organised basis, in groups (tourist groups, friends, companies, unions, schools, faculties of universities, etc.) or individually, regularly or occasionally, visit the monastery *en masse*. We strongly believe that the Ardenicë Monastery, thanks to its high esteem for both Christians and Muslims, is playing the crucial role of witness in the process of rediscovering spiritual values during this transitional period.

However, due to the transformations of the monastery and the lack of a proper conservation, guest houses and guest-rooms, rooms for gatherings and discussions, as well as rooms suitably equipped to serve the educational and spiritual needs of children either have fallen into disuse, or are no longer available. This limits the potential of the monastery to fully deploy its spiritual and social activities. It is, therefore, essential for these rooms, which once existed within the monastery, to be restored to their original functions. This shall not only facilitate the social roles of the monastery, but would also mean the conservation of a symbol, the partial restoration of spiritual values in a much suffering society, and the partial restitution of hope in a youth agonised from a lack of vision.

Hoping that this letter, meant to be attached to the request folder, would also be taken into consideration, we thank you in advance for considering our appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis
Kryepishkopata Orthodhokse
Rr. e Kavajës, Tiranë, Albania
Tel.: 00355-692-486803
0030-6942-989195
E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr and
kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

Αγαπητή Ειρήνη,

σε ευχαριστώ πολύ για την υποστήριξή σου. Εκτός συγκλονιστικού απροόπτου, στις 26 Ιουνίου θα μπορέσουμε να γνωριστούμε και από κοντά, προκειμένου να σε ευχαριστήσω και προσωπικώς. Έχει εγκριθεί η άδειά μου και απομένει να κλείσω εισιτήριο. Η εισήγησή μου θα αφορά κυρίως στο πρόγραμμα που έχουμε ήδη ξεκινήσει με την Αρχιεπισκοπή και για τον οποίο θα ζητήσουμε τη βοήθεια του Ιδρύματος, αλλά και γενικότερα στα μνημεία εντός Αλβανίας.

Ενόψει της συνεδριάσεως αυτής της Πέμπτης, όπου, σύμφωνα με το μήνυμα που μου έστειλες, θα συζητηθεί και ο φάκελος της μονής Αρδενίτσας,σπεύδω να σου αποστείλω ένα CD, στο οποίο υπάρχουν δύο αρχεία Power Point. Το ένα αφορά στις αξίες του μνημείου μαζί με ένα πολύ σύντομο ιστορικό, το άλλο αφορά στα προβλήματα της μονής. Με τον τρόπο αυτό αποφεύγεται η ταλαιπωρία της χρήσης των φωτογραφιών που αρχικώς σου είχα στείλει με άλλο CD, οι οποίες ήταν και μη τακτοποιημένες και δυσεξήγητες. Με το νέο τρόπο προβολής νομίζω ότι το υποστηρικτικό υλικό συμμορφώνεται κάπως…

Ελπίζω, μόνον, το υλικό αυτό να φτάσει εγκαίρως. Αν δεν υπάρχει χρόνος να προβληθούν και τα δύο αρχεία (συνολικής διάρκειας 16΄), τότε το αρχείο που αφορά στις αξίες του μνημείου θα μπορούσα να το προβάλλω κατά τη δική μου παρουσίαση.

Ευχαριστώ και πάλι για τη βοήθεια και να με συμπαθάς για την ταλαιπωρία που σου έχω προκαλέσει.

Φιλικά,

Κώστας Γιακουμής

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Preliminary proposal

The Place which Thou Hast Founded for Them

[Ps. 103:8].

Exploring the Orthodox Christian Heritage in Albania (9th-19th Centuries) as European Heritage

Participating Institutions: 1) Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania.
2) The University of Birmingham, U.K.
3) Institute of Byzantine Studies, National Foundation of Research, Greece.

Person through whom application is made
and Principal Investigator: **Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis**

TIRANA 2003

Research Project Proposal

By Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis
Ph.D. in Byzantine, Ottoman
and Modern Greek Studies
The University of Birmingham
Kryepeshkopata Orthodhokse
Rr. e Kavajës 151, Tiranë, Albania
37 Aharnon Street, Kifissia, 145-62
Athens, Greece
Tel.: 0030-6942-989195 and
00355-692-486803
E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr and
kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

TO
The Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage

Monday 23 June 2003

Dear Mr. Costas Carras,

We hereby attach you a Research Project Proposal entitled: 'The Place which Thou Hast Founded for Them' [Ps. 103:8]. Exploring the Orthodox Christian Heritage in Albania (9th-19th Centuries) as a European Heritage'. In this project three institutions are to collaborate: firstly, a church institution, the Orthodox Church of Albania, which shall be responsible for the co-ordination of the project; And secondly two scientific institutions, the Institute of Byzantine Studies of the National Foundation of Research, Athens, Greece and the University of Birmingham (Great Britain), which shall undertake the supervision of the project.

The project aspires to create a network of specialists from E.U. countries as well as from Albania, in order to explore and study the biggest part of the Christian monuments in Albania, taking advantage of rather inaccessible archival sources from the State Archives at Tirana. The proposed project is characterised by four original points, which make it root-breaking and a model for such kind of research. First, because an inseparable part of the proposed project is the continuing vocational training of specialised Albanian scientists (i.e. architects, conservators, etc.) *in situ* from the one hand, and from the other the training of young Albanian scientists in their undergraduate studies. Secondly, because the outcome of the research shall not only be addressed to a scientific audience, but it shall also be accessible to the average citizen of a knowledge-based society, through internet sites and popular publications. Thirdly, because it shall approach the monuments in a horizontal and cross-subject fashion. In other words it shall link specialists for their study and publication originating not only from the Humanities, but also from the Natural Sciences and the Technology Sciences. Fourthly, because this research project shall contribute to the European integration of the wilfully self-isolated Albania of the past, as much for the study of the monuments within its territory as European monuments, as for the collaboration of scientists from different countries of the E.U. with local scientists. Finally, it is worth noticing that the realisation of such an ambitious and far-sighted European project in Albania shall contribute to the transmission of a message of hope to a disappointed and in many way despaired people, especially its youth.

The present proposed project shall support educational and vocational training and the scientific potential. It further serves the Albanian social infrastructure and social services by developing the living standards and human resources of Albania. As an horizontal programme, i.e. project that shall cover more than one sector, it shall

crossover with the Second ('Information society technologies') and Seventh Thematic Priority ('Citizens ... in a knowledge-based society') of the 6th Framework Programme for European Research and Development. Moreover, the proposed project tones in with a number of European policies, such as research and innovation, human resources and mobility, the creation of research infrastructures in specific targeted countries and the linkage between science and society.

The total estimated amount for the proposed five-year research project is € 1.312.089, which we hope that could possibly be covered by various funding bodies. We kindly ask you to also consider that this project shall employ unemployed young scientists and shall create speciality of European scientific resources into a rather 'virgin' field of research and shall enrich the research material of remarkable paedagogical and other value in at least two scientific institutions. Furthermore, it shall contribute to the strengthening of the integration of Albania with research infrastructures of the western world.

In order to provide you a hint of our work on the monuments of Albania as European as monuments and its importance, we attach you a CD with a Power Point file containing a rather popularised presentation of the Ardenicë Monastery in Myzeqe, Central Albania.

Assuring you of our flexibility to accept any creative alternatives, or suggestions, i.e. the partial financing of the project, the collaboration of more scientific institutions (i.e. The University of Ioannina, or The University of Lecce); or the linkage of the project with other similar projects which are intended to be initiated in other Balkan countries (Serbia, Bulgaria) by local scientific groups, with which we have established some contacts which could possibly be developed in a form of a wider project.

Yours with hopes,

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis
Chief applicant on the account of the partners of the consortium to be set

Project Proposal

1. Name of applicant

Title:	Dr.
First name:	Konstantinos
Surname:	Giakoumis
Date of birth:	21 May 1973

Address for correspondence

1) 37 Aharnon Street, Kifissia
Athens, Greece and
2) Kryepeshkopata Orthodhokse
Rr. e Kavajës 151, Tiranë, ALBANIA

Postcode: 145-61 (Greece)

Tel no: 0030-210-8016787 / 0030-6942-989195 / 00355-69-2486803

Email: kgiakoum@cci.gr and kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

2. Present appointment and Body Responsible for the Implementation of the Project

External colleague of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania, which shall be responsible for the implementation of the project.

Link with the scientific institutions to supervise the project.

External Research Colleague of the University of Birmingham
External Research Colleague of the Institute of Byzantine Studies, The National Foundation of Research

3. Project title

'The Place which Thou Hast Founded for Them'. Exploring the Orthodox Christian Heritage in Albania (9th-19th Centuries) as a European Heritage'.

4. Project summary

Lying between East and West, Albania historically was uniquely more important for its strategic position rather than its natural resources. Its inaccessibility, Communistic regime, shortage of specialists and a lack of publications in English resulted that the Orthodox Christian heritage in Albania remains widely unknown. This project aspires to fill this vacuum by exploring the Orthodox Christian monuments, locating them in time and space; cataloguing and studying their art and architecture; reporting on their current condition; exploring their properties on a historical perspective; and comparing them with monuments within Albania, the Balkans and European countries. In the end of the project, the major part of the corpus of the Christian monuments in Albania shall be complete for publication.

5. Commitment to the project

Principal applicant	40 Hours

6. Output

The primary products of our research are intended to be:

(a) Monograph, critical edition, or article(s) ☐√

(b) Creation of an electronic data, sound or image resource ☐√

(c) Material for paedagogical purposes ☐√

The outcome of the research project shall chiefly consist of non-permanent output. A dossier of reviews, plans, photographs and other related materials will be created for all monuments to be visited. A fair number of scientific publications (papers, lectures, articles, contributions, books, etc.) shall communicate the outcome of the research project to a specialised audience. Other forms of communication include scientific meetings, lectures, and seminars both in Universities and in scientific institutions placed in Albania, Greece and the UK.

On the other hand, contributions in publications of a more popular character, such as the

newspaper, the periodicals of the Orthodox Church of Albania, Its Bulletin in English (News from the Orthodoxy in Albania) and, last but not least, Its web site shall present the outcome of the research to a wider, non-specialised audience.

The materials will also be produced in a digital form, as teaching materials. They could, later, be used to develop projects related to restoration, preparation of tourist-guides and to eco-tourism, religious and cultural 'exploitation' of these monuments.

Finally, once the research project is finished, the outcome or the research will be used for the preparation of a complete *corpus* of Christian monuments (8th-19th Centuries) in Albania to be published as a post-doctoral dissertation by the chief applicant.

7. Personal statement

The chief applicant of the project has realized a number of pilot-research visits in both monuments and archives in Albania together with most the colleagues to collaborate in the proposed research project. For this reason, he is currently staying in Albania, in order to establish the necessary contacts, co-ordinate the research group and arrange for the logistics of the project.

8. Scheme of research

Aims: The proposed research project aims to improve the breadth and depth of our knowledge on Christian Orthodox culture by exploring the widely unknown Orthodox Christian heritage in a remote, but strategically important province, Albania, as European heritage. Moreover, it aims to provide an insight and understanding of the various roles of these monuments in their natural, religious, cultural, social, and economic settings. Another aim of the project is to raise the awareness at a local and international, specialised or not, level on the outstanding architectural, historical, art historical, religious and cultural values of these monuments. Furthermore, it intends to make a cross and inter-disciplinary approach of the monuments to be examined bringing together expertise from the Humanities, the Natural Sciences and Information Technologies chiefly from Greece, but also from other European countries to a developing country, such as Albania. The proposed research aspires to serve as a model to similar projects worldwide. Finally, the research project aims to develop an understanding of and to address issues related to, the emergence of a knowledge-based society and new forms of relationships between Albanian, Greek and other European citizens, on the one hand and between institutes and institutions on the other.

Objectives: The project targets at:

- Conducting archival, historical, photographic, structural, condition, archaeological, landscape and other specialised surveys to document and evaluate Orthodox churches and monasteries in Albania dated from the 9th to the 19th Centuries, a few among which have only been understudied, while even fewer partially-published; indicating the place of these monuments in the development of architecture, in art, social, cultural and religious history, in past and present systems of thought of human beings.
- Preparing current architectural, site, painting or/and other drawings, as well as maps indicating precisely the monuments in place and their way of access;
- Exploring the place of the monuments and the monuments themselves within their natural, environmental setting; produce plans for re-integrating these monuments in their environmental dimension.
- Making use of modern technological tools (G.P.S., digital equipment, satellite-based information services, etc.), in order to enhance our understanding on the monuments and make them more accessible to the public at large;
- Provide training opportunities for Albanian professionals and under or post-graduate students;
- Compiling, synthesising, and developing data and information gathered into a comprehensive document for each monument to be used as a resource for future scholarship and for paedagogical purposes.
- Providing resources for development plans of future use and maintenance of the monuments in question, in a friendly way to the environment.

Research Questions / Problems:

- What is the Orthodox Christian heritage in the provinces of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania and how did it develop in the course of Byzantine and post-Byzantine history?
- Which is the role of the monuments in the natural, social, religious and economic setting of their locality and how it has changed over the course of centuries?
- What do these monuments testify about local, historical developments or developments of the Byzantine and Ottoman, empires at large?
- What will be the place of the provinces of the Orthodox Church of Albania in the European religious and cultural map in the light of the findings to appear after the completion of the proposed research project?

Research Context:

Albania is the only European state, in which, due to its inaccessibility, Communist regime, shortage of specialists and a lack of publications in English resulted that the Orthodox Christian heritage in Albania remains largely unknown. Lying between East and West, though, Albania provides a unique example of how a remote province for both, eastern and western powers, was included in their systems of strategic thought, took part in their developments, and assimilated them in its own local structures. The proposed project shall fill a major part of this import lapse of knowledge, shall contribute to the European integration of Albania, and create expertise in a virgin field of research.

A major part of the monuments situated in Albania remains unexplored. A small part of them, however, has been the object of previous research efforts conducted by specialists of the State Institute of Monuments, or independent scholars. All these efforts, though, were incomplete and so were the publications that were based on them. For example, one of the best-studied monument, the 10th Century church of the Nativity of the Virgin at Pëshkopi e Sipërm, Gjirokastër, has been published for the first time by F. Versakis in 1914 and, was later published by many other scholars, including D. Evangelides, D. Pallas, P. Vokotopoulos, H. Buschausen, A. Meksi, P. Thomo and others. Although many of them did actually visit this monument, none has ever considered its remarkable 13th Century frescoes, placed at the 13th Century chapel attached to the southern wall of the church. Furthermore, most of the independent scholars visited the same monuments known from older publications and totally ignored monuments of major importance. In conclusion, the few research visits that have been undertaken in the area were incomplete in that iconographic programmes or other values of the monuments were neglected or under-studied; the researchers who studied them did so through a narrow scope of interpretation (i.e. nationalism, lack of comparative evidence, etc.). On the other hand, the lack of appropriate technological tools resulted in the photographic evidence being inadequate, whether published or not, and in errors in the placement of these monuments in space. The proposed project aims at overstepping boundaries and limitations of the past, bringing older visits into completion.

The output of our research shall be of interest not only for specialist, but also for non-specialist, audiences. While adhering to high academic standards and quality, the outcome or the research shall be simplified for the needs of non-specialised audiences.

Research Methods:

The research model to be adopted in the proposed research project has been formed in over 10 years of research in various regions of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania. It involves an initial scrutiny of bibliographical resources to do with the target-area, in order to prepare a catalogue of all monuments initially spotted to be visited, classified in regions, and provide basic information on these monuments and details of any prior publication directly or indirectly related to them. The work of this starting phase shall be combined with documentary sources extracted from Diocesan or other manuscripts related to the monuments to be visited. These are available chiefly in the Central Archives of the State, Tirana.

There follows the preparation of a medium-length field-work in the targeted area. During this second phase the logistics of the expeditions will be sorted out, while arrangements shall be made for any anticipated problems.

The fourth phase invlolves the actual expedition *in situ*, in order to visit the already spotted monuments from the first stage of preparation and to track down others not known in scholarship. At a pre-selected base, a day-to-day evaluation of the quality of work and findings shall take place. Furthermore, backups of digital data gathered shall be created on a daily basis. The expeditions of the group's lawyer shall be at local state cadastre-offices, in order to search for title deeds and other documents related to the targeted monuments properties. Analytical financial registers of expenses and receipts shall be kept, for later financial reports.

During a fifth phase, the survey materials collected in a certain expedition will be developed and systematised, while a comprehensive document shall be compiled for each of the monuments of the expedition, synthesising and developing data and information gathered during the previous archival, historical, photographic, structural, condition, archaeological, landscape and other specialised surveys. These documents together with all supportive materials will then be presented to the supervisors for evaluation, after which they shall be inserted into the net, while a part of them shall be considered and prepared for publication in various popular and scientific reviews, such the *Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Studies*.

Experience of the past has shown that medium scale and length expeditions ranging from 10 to 15 days every 2-3 months are expedient for best results. They provide adequate time to visit a group of monuments (between 8 and 17 per expedition) at a certain region, allowing rather adequate time for after-expedition reviews, reports, evaluation, and publications.

Timetable:

- *1st Year*: Province of Gjirokastër, Province of Delvinë.

- *2nd Year*: Province of Delvinë; Province of Himarrë.
- *3rd Year*. Province of Korçë.

Following the three first years of research, we shall seek funds for another two-years extension, in order to complete the rest of the regions were targeted monuments are situated.

- *4th Year*. Province of Berat and Fier.
- *5th Year*. Province of Durrës; Province of Shkodër.

The roles of the members of the staff:

- **Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis**, Ph.D. in Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies, from Greece, shall be in charge of the historical, architectural and art historical surveys of the project, as well as the head of the proposed research project. He shall be responsible to handle all the necessary reports and correspondence of the project.
- **Ms. Manuela Di'Giorgi**, Ph.D. student in Byzantine Archaeology, The University of Lecce, Italy. She shall assist in all the historical, architectural and art historical surveys of the project and in the comparisons with monuments situated in Southern Italy.
- **Dr. Nikolaos Manios**, environmentalist from Greece, shall undertake the studies to do with the environmental setting of each monument. Currently unemployment.
- **Mr. Joan Stratobërdha**, architect-restorer from Albania, shall share the burden of the architectural part of the project, by preparing the necessary architectural, site, painting, and other drawings, as well as preparing reports for each monument to do with its current static, constructional, and architectural situation.
- **Ms Kristina Lilo**, lawyer from Albania, shall assist the historical survey of each monument in the part to do with their properties, which were once confiscated by the Communistic regime and have not yet been fully reimbursed. She shall visit state institutions (cadastre offices, city councils, state archives, etc.) or private individuals, in whose archives title deeds of monuments properties could be found. Then, by comparing these data with their current properties status, she shall create a database indicating the monuments properties: a) as cited in historical sources; b) as they had been before the confiscation; c) as they are today. Finally she shall attempt to locate these properties using this documentation *in situ*. This sub-project shall provide better resources for development plans of future use by 'exploiting' any chance of them 'regaining' their old properties in full or in part.
- **Mr. Christos Nikas**, physician, specialised in Information Science for Paedagogical Purposes, shall undertake the task of publishing parts of the materials to be produced into the web-site of the Archdiocese.
- **Mr. Kristo Paskali**, from Albania, shall undertake to use the G.P.S. equipment, in order to create tracks and routes leading to and from the monuments. Furthermore, he shall assist in the preparation of digital maps, the gathering of data from satellite information services and shall locate the properties of the monuments in space by collaborating with Kristina Lilo. He shall also carry out clerical work and translations.

Compatibility and Correlation with European Community Policies.

The proposed research project is correlated to a number of European research instruments and schemes. This project could potentially be a part of a wider integrated project or could be supported by Marie Curie actions for the mobility of scientists. Furthermore, the issues addressed in the proposed project are compatible with the Thematic Priorities No. 2 and 7 of the Sixth Framework European Projects. These European research instruments and schemes could provide other complementary financial assistance; however, the Guide for the Sixth Framework Programme strongly recommends seeking national funds for the proposed projects.

Total number of words 1.922

9. Ethical aspects of the proposal

The research project shall be under the blessing and spiritual guidance of a religious institution, the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania, which shall safeguard that all ethical implications of the project will be dealt with in accordance with Christian moral values. Moreover, Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania, himself, takes personal care make sure that all ethical implications are well respected. The Orthodox Church of Albania relies much on external funding and through personal initiatives of the Archbishop; funds have been raised continuously over the past 10 years for the colossal task of restoring a Church from foundations, as after democratisation of Albania the Orthodox Church was found to be in utter ruin. Various missionary centres, the World Council of Churches, the European Council of Churches, the WWF, and the Action by Churches Together – ACT, the DanChurch Aid, various state funds from Greece and many private funds have been some of the bodies that funded or continue to fund the various activities of the Orthodox Church of Albania. Therefore, know-how has been established over these years with regards to the dealings of ethical implications of the various projects, as a result of which the Church continues to receive external funding.

It is only after all Church activities and finances be scrutinized by committees (each specializing in different activities) consisting of both clergymen and laymen that a certain project could be evaluated and considered as complete. These committees check that ethical implications are treated in an appropriate manner. These committees are supervised by the Archbishop and the Holy Synod of the Church of Albania.

The staff to be employed for the various aspects of the projects shall be contracted from the outset. The contracts shall detail the purpose, the methods, and the possible risks of the project, their rights and duties, as well as their obligation to acknowledge the contribution of the sponsoring institutions, wherever they publish materials produced as an outcome of the project.

A part of the third phase deals with arrangements for the necessary documentation of access to the targeted monuments. Furthermore, it makes sure that the Churchwardens or a delegation of the Church council of the targeted monuments shall be present during the expedition.

Analytical financial records shall be kept in order to safeguard transparency in dealing with the financing of the project.

As a conclusion, the work will abide by accepted ethical principles and code(s) of practice and comply with European, Greek and Albanian law.

10. Duration of the research project

Duration of current proposal:	Start date	01	01	2004	End date	31	12	2006

11. Budget summary

Summary	Project Year 1	Project Year 2	Project Year 3	Project Year 4	Project Year 5
Staff salaries	121.800	125,451	129.218	133.184	137.272
Project Students (3)	4.200	4.326	4.456	4.590	4.728
Travel and subsistence	48.480	50.124	51.636	53.184	54.708
Consumables*	3.000	3.090	3.183	3.278	3.376
Equipment	42.000	0	0	0	0
Special costs	15,000	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000
Indirect costs** (46% of staff costs)	56.028	57.707	59.440	61.265	63.145
Total in each year	290.508	257.698	264.933	272.501	280.229
				GRAND TOTAL	€ 1.365.869

12. Detailed budget statement

(a) Staff costs

(a) Particulars of posts	Starting salary (per month)	Insurance on a per monthly basis (incl.)
Applicant	3.000	240
Environmentalist	1,500	240

* Consumables include items of stationery and computing supplies (e.g. paper and printer supplies), telephone, fax and postal costs, photocopying costs, software licences and items such as audio and video tapes.

** Indirect costs include library fees or expenses, various services (administrative and secretarial services not included under direct support, local finance, minor consumables, photography/printing/photocopying, minor stores items), financial services (finance, accounting, tendering, marketing), personnel services, public relations, recruitment costs, staff development and training, staff facilities (transport, health and safety, welfare services, laundry), part-time staff effort on research projects that cannot be easily identified or allocated to a research project but contributes to the general background level of departmental administrative, secretarial or technical support.

Art historian	1,500	240
Architect	650	70
IT. specialist	1,100	240
Lawyer	650	70
Technical/ other staff		
Operator	300	50

(b) Total costs to project (*calculated on a 14-months salary per annum basis).

	Effort on project							
Research staff	%	Months	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
Applicant	30	12	42.000	43.260	44.558	45.894	47.271	222.983
Environmentalist	10	12	21.000	21.630	22.279	22.947	23.635	111.491
Art Historian	10	12	21.000	21.630	22.279	22.947	23.635	111.491
Architect	18	12	9.100	9.373	9.654	9.944	10.242	48.313
IT. specialist	10	12	15.400	15.862	16.338	16.828	17.333	81.761
Lawyer	18	12	9.100	9.373	9.654	9.944	10.242	48.313
Technical/ other staff								
Operator	4	12	4.200	4.323	4.456	4.680	4.914	22,573

(c) Other costs

Expenditure requested for (a) travel and subsistence, (b) consumables (only eligible for support where no staff costs are sought), (c) equipment, and (d) special costs are itemised in this table:

Description and costs	Total in €
Year 1	
(a) Travel and subsistence: 1) *Athens-Albania-Athens*, € 310 per research visit.	1.860
2) *Petrol*, € 1,600 per research visit (10 days).	9.600
3) *Food (for max. 10 persons)*, € 1.800 per research visit (10 days).	10.800
4) *Hotel (for max. 10 persons)*, € 1.800 per research visit (10 days).	10.800
5) *Photographs*, € 1570 per research visit (10 days).	9.420
6) *Telephone calls*: € 1000 per research visit (10 days).	6.000
(b) Equipment: 1) Two good second-hand 4 wheel drive cars (worth to buy than to rent for the length of period required).	12.000
2) 7 Computers (laptops and IBMs), software, peripherals, accessories and printers.	23.300
3) Digital equipment (camera, video-camera, projector and peripherals)	5.200
4) G.P.S., peripherals and equipment	1.500
(c) Special costs: 1) Costs to support small networks of scholars to meet together (twice for the first year, thrice thereafter).	12.000
2) Costs of preparing work for publication.	3.000

Year 2 (a) Travel and subsistence: 1) *Athens-Albania-Athens*, € 353 per research visit.	2.118
2) *Petrol*, € 1.646 per research visit (10 days).	9.876
3) *Food (for max. 10 persons)*, € 1854 per research visit (10 days).	11.124
4) *Hotel (for max. 10 persons)*, € 1854 per research visit (10 days).	11.124
5) *Photographs*, € 1617 per research visit (10 days).	9.702
6) *Telephone calls*: € 1030 per research visit (10 days).	6.180
(b) Special costs: 1) Costs to support small networks of scholars to meet together (twice for the first year).	12.000
2) Costs of preparing work for publication.	5.000
Year 3 (a) Travel and subsistence: 1) *Athens-Albania-Athens*, € 364 per research visit.	2.184
2) *Petrol*, € 1.695 per research visit (10 days).	10.170
3) *Food (for max. 10 persons)*, € 1.910 per research visit (10 days).	11.460
4) *Hotel (for max. 10 persons)*, € 1.910 per research visit (10 days).	11.460
5) *Photographs*, € 1.666 per research visit (10 days).	9.996
6) *Telephone calls*: € 1061 per research visit (10 days).	6.366
(b) Special costs: 1) Costs to support small networks of scholars to meet together (twice for the first year).	12.000
2) Costs of preparing work for publication.	5.000
Year 4 (a) Travel and subsistence: 1) *Athens-Albania-Athens*, € 364 per research visit.	2.250
2) *Petrol*, € per research visit (10 days).	10.476
3) *Food (for max. 10 persons)*, € per research visit (10 days).	11.802
4) *Hotel (for max. 10 persons)*, € per research visit (10 days).	11.802
5) *Photographs*, € per research visit (10 days).	10.296
6) *Telephone calls*: € per research visit (10 days).	6.558
(b) Special costs: 1) Costs to support small networks of scholars to meet together (twice for the first year).	12.000
2) Costs of preparing work for publication.	5.000
Year 5 (a) Travel and subsistence: 1) *Athens-Albania-Athens*, € 364 per research visit.	2.250
2) *Petrol*, € per research visit (10 days).	10.788
3) *Food (for max. 10 persons)*, € per research visit (10 days).	12.156
4) *Hotel (for max. 10 persons)*, € per research visit (10 days).	12.156
5) *Photographs*, € per research visit (10 days).	10.602
6) *Telephone calls*: € per research visit (10 days).	6.756
(b) Special costs: 1) Costs to support small networks of scholars to meet together (twice for the first year).	12.000
2) Costs of preparing work for publication.	5.000

13. Nominated evaluators

(1) Name:	Prof. Anthony Bryer	(2) Name:	Prof. John F. Haldon
Address:	33 Crosbie Road, Harborne Birmingham	Address:	School of Historical Studies The University of Birmingham Edgbaston, Birmingham
Postcode:	B17 9BG	Postcode:	B15 2TT
Email:	bryer@compuserve.com	Email:	j.f. haldon@bham.ac.uk
Evaluator's area of subject expertise Byzantine and post-Byzantine studies My relationship to this evaluator: He was a member of the committee examining my thesis Reason for nominating this evaluator He has a long-standing experience in research of similar kind. Furthermore, he knows Albania as part of his expertise and he has a reading knowledge in Albanian.		Evaluator's area of subject expertise Byzantine studies My relationship to this evaluator: He was the first supervisor of my doctoral thesis. Reason for nominating this evaluator We can benefit from his experience in historical research.	
(3) Name:	Prof. Dr. Pirro Thomo	(4) Name:	Dr. Kriton Chrysochoidis
Address:	20 Kymis Road Euosmos Thessaloniki, Greece	Address:	5 Solomou Road Exarcheia, Athens Greece
Postcode:	56-224	Postcode:	106-83
Email:	-	Email:	kchryso@eie.gr and kchryso1@otenet.gr
Evaluator's area of subject expertise Byzantine and post-Byzantine architecture (Architect-Restorer) My relationship to this evaluator: He has provided valuable insights in my work. Reason for nominating this evaluator As an Albanian historian of ecclesiastical architecture, he has a thorough knowledge of the architecture of Christian monuments in Albania and was involved in research to do with architectural aspects of some of the monuments in question.		Evaluator's area of subject expertise Byzantine Studies (Director of Studies in the Centre for Byzantine Studies, Athens) My relationship to this evaluator: He has offered me his valuable critical comments on various aspects of my thesis. Reason for nominating this evaluator We could take advantage of his research experience and his particular expertise in archives and manuscripts.	
(5) Name:	Prof. Evangelia Georgitsogianni	(6) Name:	Dr. Zaga Gavrilovic
Address:	10 Adonidos Road, Kifissia Athens, Greece	Address:	Institute of Advanced Research in the Humanities The University of Birmingham Edgbaston, Birmingham
Postcode:	145-64	Postcode:	B15 2TT
Email:	-	Email:	

Evaluator's area of subject expertise Byzantine and post-Byzantine Art My relationship to this evaluator : Reason for nominating this evaluator She has a thorough understanding of post-Byzantine painting.	Evaluator's area of subject expertise Byzantine and post-Byzantine Art. My relationship to this evaluator : She was an internal examiner of my doctoral thesis. Reason for nominating this evaluator She has a deep knowledge and understanding of B. and p.-B. Art.

13. Signature and date

Applicant's signature

Name Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis	Date 07/06/2003

Personal Data

1. Name: Konstantinos G. Giakoumis [Kostas].

2. Home Address: 37 Aharnon Street, Kifissia, 145-61, Athens, Greece. Tel.: 003-010-8016787; Fax: 003-010-6230013; Cel.: 003-094-2989195. E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr and kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

Work Address: Kryepeshkopata Ortodokse, Rr. e Kavajës 151, Tiranë, Albania; Tel.: 00355-6924-86803; E-mail addresses as stated above.

3. Place, date of birth and Citizenship: Athens, 21.05.1973; Greek citizen.

4. Educational Qualifications:

4.1. Ph.D. in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham; Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, as a scholarship holder of the Arts and Humanities Research Board, The British Academy, the 'A. Onassis' Public Benefit Foundation and the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Greece. Thesis Title: *The Monasteries of Jorgucat and Vanishtë in Dropull and of Spelaio in Lunxhëri as Monuments and Institutions During the Ottoman Period in Albania (16th-19th Centuries)* (1995-2002).

4.2. B.A.: University of Athens, Paedagogical Faculty (1991-1995), excellent degree (8.75/10).

4.3. University of Leeds, **ERASMUS student** at Bretton Hall College, with a focus on Education and School practice (February-May 1994).

4.4. University of Tirana: Albanian Language and Culture (advanced level, August 1996).

4.5. Deree College, Athens, (Psychology, Excellent A) [1991].

4.6. Middle and High School: The Costeas-Geitonas School (1984-1991) (excellent degree, 18.57/20).

5. Languages:

5.1. Greek: mother tongue.
5.2. English: Academic level.
5.3. French: Academic level.
5.4. Albanian: Academic level.
5.5. Russian: A reading knowledge.
5.6. Turkish: A reading knowledge.
5.7. German: A reading knowledge.
5.8. Italian: A reading knowledge.

6. Major publications in some of these languages:

6.1. Giakoumis G. - Giakoumis K. (1994), *Μεταβυζαντινή Αγιογραφία στη Βόρειο Ήπειρο* (The Post - Byzantine Painting in Northern Epiros), Ioannina: I.V.E. Ed.

6.2. Giakoumis G. - Giakoumis K. (1994), *Ορθόδοξα Μνημεία στη Βόρειο Ήπειρο* (Orthodox monuments in Northern Epiros), Ioannina: I.V.E. [In Greek.]

6.3. Giakoumis K. - Aidonopoulou E. (1995), 'Η Ι. Μ. Δρυϊάνου και το εθνοπαιδαγωγικό της έργο στην Τουρκοκρατία', *Ηπειρωτική Εταιρεία*, 1st part: v. 222, pp. 117-123 and the attached illustrations, 2nd part: v. 224, pp. 225-227, 3rd part: v. 225, pp. 263-264, 269, 4th part: v. 226-227, pp. 339-344, Athens. [In Greek.]

6.4. Giakoumis K. (1997), 'Be Modern! Learn Albanian (report of the 2nd Summer Course in Albanian Language and Culture)', *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies*, v. 23, p. 77.

6.5. Giakoumis K. (1997), 'Report of the XIX International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Copenhagen, 18-24 August 1996', *Bulletin of British Byzantine Studies*, v. 23, p. 91.

6.6. Giakoumis K. (26.01.1997), 'Τα μοναστήρια της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας' (The monasteries of the Orthodox Church of Albania), newspaper *Καθημερινή: Αφιέρωμα 7 Ημέρες*, p. 3-6.

6.7. Giakoumis K. (1997), 'Desire for the Divine and monasticism in post - Byzantium: the case of a new monastic society in Dropolis of Southern Albania', paper given in the XXXI Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Sussex, 21 - 24 March 1997, the abstract of which has been published in *B. B. B. S.* (1998), v. 24.

6.8. Giakoumis K. (1998), 'Byzantine dignitaries as «outsiders» to secular mentality: the case of the brothers Ioannis primicerius and Alexios stratopedarch, founders of the monastery of the Almighty, Mount Athos', paper given to the XXXII Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Sussex, 27 - 30 March 1997, an abstract of which to be published in the B.B.B.S. (1999).

6.9. Popa Th. (1998), *Mbishkrime të kishave në Shqipëri*, co-edited by Nestor Nepravishta and Kostandin Gjakumis, Tirana: Akademia e Shkencave - Instituti i Historisë Ed.

6.10. Giakoumis K. (1999), 'The Architecture of the monasteries of Jorgucat and Vanishtë in Dropull and the Ottoman legislation in respect of Church building', lecture included in the lectures programme of a *British Week*, organised by Her Majesty's Embassy in Tirana, given in the Historical Faculty of the University of Tirana on 24.02.1999.

6.11. Giakoumis K. (1999), 'Λειτουργικά έντυπα με ενθυμήσεις στην Αρχιεπισκοπή Τιράνων και πάσης Αλβανίας (Old liturgical prints with commemorative notes in the Archdiocese of Tirana and all Albania)', in *Albanohellenica*, v. 1, Elbasan: Albanian-Greek Association of Philology, pp. 115-148 (fig. 1-8, English synopsis in p. 142.

6.12. Giakoumis K. (2000), 'Κριτική έκδοση επιγραφών συνεργείων από το Λινοτόπι στις περιφέρειες της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας (A critical edition of inscriptions of workshops from Linotopi in the provinces of the Orthodox Church of Albania)', *Δελτίον της Χριστιανικής Αρχαιολογικής Εταιρείας*, v. 21, pp. 249-265 (English synopsis, pp. 265-266).

6.13. Gjakumis K. (2001), 'Paraqitija e parë në ikonografi e dëshmorit të ri Nikollës nga Mecova: tregues të orientimit ideologjik të pikturës në zonën e Gjirokastrës (1634-1653)', *Tempulli: Revistë Periodike Kulturore*, v. 3, pp. 47-80; with an English synopsis in pp. 77-78 [in Albanian with an English synopsis].

6.14. Giakoumis K. (2001), 'Τα εικονίδια του επιστυλίου της μονής Σπηλαίου Λιούντζης' (The Small Icons on the Epistyle at the Monastery of Spelaio), in *Ηπειρωτικά Χρονικά*, v. 35, pp. 343-385; English synopsis, pp. 367-368.

6.15. Giakoumis K. (2002), 'The Ottoman Campaign to Apulia (1480-1481)', in *The Turks*, edited by H. C. Güzel, C. C. Oğuz and O. Karatay, Ankara, v. 3 (Ottomans), pp. 189-197.

6.16. Giakoumis K. (2002), 'The Question of the 'Relative Autochthony' of the Albanians in Epiros And the Albanian Immigration Movements of the Fourteenth Century: The case of the region of Dropull, Gjirokastër (Southern Albania)', *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, forthcoming.

6.17. Giakoumis K. - Lekati E. (1995), 'Το Δημιουργικό Σχολείο στην πράξη. Μια τυπική σχολική ημέρα στο δημοτικό σχολείο του Clayton West', *Ελληνοχριστιανική Αγωγή*, v. 103, pp. 94-125.

7. Work experience as a researcher:

7.1. External Colleague of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania (1997-current employment). As a member of a flexible scientific team that undertook the task of exploring, researching and recording, cataloguing and publishing the surviving Christian monuments and, finally, determining a scale of conservation priorities.

7.2. External Research Fellow of the Institute of History, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania (1998). A short fellowship for editing the publication of the corpus of church inscriptions in Albania by Th. Popa (1998).

7.3. External Colleague of the Institute of Monuments, The Republic of Albania (1993). Co-director of a joint project with the Orthodox Church of Albania, in order to catalogue the iconographic programmes of painted monuments in the regions of Dropull and Rrezë e Ze.

7.4. Member of the Greek-Albanian Philological Association and editor of its Review *Albanohellenica* (2000-ongoing).

7.5. Member of the Christian Archaeological Association (1997-now).

7.6. Member of the Society for the Promotion of British Byzantine Studies (1995-today).

Buleverdi B.Curri, Pallatet e aviacionit, Sh.12, Ap. 82,
Tirane
ALBANIA

Phone 00355-4-246184
Cell. 00355-692083562
E-mail gentjan_s@hotmail.com

Gentian Stratobërdha

Datëlindja
- 29 Shtator 1972

Vëndi i lindjes
- Tiranë, Albania

Emri i babait Petraq

Emri i nënës Violeta

Arsimimi
- 1987 – 1991 Shkolla e Mesme e Përgjithshme: Qyteti i Nxenesve,
- 1994 - 1999 Universiteti Politeknik i Tiranës, Fakulteti i Inxhinierisë së Ndërtimit, Dega Arkitekture. Diplomuar si arkitekt ne 8 korrik 1999 me temen "Projektimi i kompleksi i kishes orthodhokse ne Laç".

Eksperienca Profesionale

Punon që nga 1shtator 1999 ne Zyren e Shërbimit Teknik , K.O.A.SH.

Arkitekt
- ***Pozicioni në Zyrën e Shërbimit Teknik është ai i projektuesit arkitekt, restauratorit, supervizorit në objekte si edhe detyra të ndryshme administrative.***
- ***I specializuar ne mesimdhenie per kursin*** "ARKITEKTURA KISHTARE" ***qe organizon Z.SH.T.,*** qe nga shtatori i vitit 1999 dhe ne vazhdim.
- ***Ne janar te vitit 2003, krijon Bethamen e restaurimit, prane fondacionit "Fryme dashurie" Ku eshte ne rolin e drejtuesit dhe te arkitektit restaurator.***
- ***Organizimin dhe mesimdhenien kursit mesimor " Arkitektura Kishtare". Program qe financohet nga Fondacioni "Fryme Dashurie" per studentet e fakultetit te arkitektures qe nga viti 1999 e ne vazhdim.***
- ***Jep mesim lenden e " Arkitektura Kishtare" ne shkollen 2-vjecare "Fryme Dashurie" ne deget e restaurimit dhe ikonografise qe nga viti shkollor 2001 e ne vazhdim.***
- ***Anetar I Keshillit te Regullimit te Teritorit te Bashkise se Vores.***

Specializime

Tetor 1998 – Maj 2000 KURSI "ARKITEKTURA KISHTARE"

Leksione mbi arkitekturen bizantine dhe pasbizantine, restaurim objektesh kulti, si dhe leksione mbi arkitekturen kishtare perendimore, dhe projekt.

Perdorues ne nivel te larte i softeve te arkitektures si AUTOCAD, 3D MAX, ARCHITECTURAL DESCTOP. I specializuar ne modelimet 3 dimensionale.

Trajnimi per: "Administrimi dhe sistemet operative" organizuar nga A.N.T.T.A.R.C.(me drejtor Edmond Spaho) ne datat 20-22 qershor 2002.

Gjuhe te huaja	ANGLISHT	shume mire
	ITALISHT	mjaftueshem

E-mail gentjan_s@hotmail.com

Deshmi per drejtim automjetesh Perdorues i kategorive “B” dhe “C” me eksperience qe nga viti 1991

Pantazi 36
Neos Kosmos
11744, Athens
Greece

Telephone: +30-2109022335
Mobile: +30-6946292409
E-mail: cnikas@mynet.gr

Christos Nikas

Personal Data

Marital status: Single
Nationality: Greek
Birthday: 29 June 1973
Place of birth: Bodrista, Gjirokastra, Albania

Studies

1994 – 1999 Department of Chemistry , University of Athens, Greece

Professional experience

1999 Association of Greek Chemists

- **Upgrade of network and creation of Internet and local node with local and Internet services**

  Services:

  1. Local (ODBC) and Internet accessible database. (Apache/PHP/MSSQL).
  2. Web Server, Mail Server(SendMail), Ftp Server, Name Server(Bind).

1999 – 2000 Kilimis SA Company

2001 – 2002 (part time)

- **Company's Network System Administrator**

  Works :

  1. Upgrade of local network (wiring and computers).
  2. Support of network and network applications.
  3. Upgrade of Internet services with installation of new Linux servers and development of new Web site with online shopping.

2000 – until now Doukas School SA

- **Company's Network System Administrator**

  Works :

  1. Upgrade of local network (wiring and computers).
  2. Support of network and network applications.
  3. Upgrade of Internet services (Web Server, Mail Server, PDC, Proxy and Firewall) and development of new Web site.
  5. Administration of computer labs.

Working freelance as Network Administrator in various Greek companies

Languages

Greek, Albanian, English, Italian

Interests

Computers, WAN and LAN development and administration, Open Source OS (Linux) and applications, Database and Web development, Multimedia Development.

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DATA:	**NAME:**	Kristina
	SURNAME:	LILO
	BIRTHDAY:	20.07.1976
	BIRTHPLACE:	Korçë
	ADDRESS:	Rr. "Kongresi i Manastirit", Nr. 57 Shk. 1, Tirane, Albania
	TEL. NR.	00355692234385

EDUCATION:	**March 2001- July 2002**:	**MA** on **European Studies**, The University of Tirana
	1995-1999:	**BA** The University of Tirana, Faculty of Law.
	1991-1995:	"Themistokli Germeni" High School, Korçë.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:	**December 1998 – June 1999:**	Legal assistant in Public Administrative Resources (part-time)
	October 1999 on wards:	I have been working as a lawyer of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES

My work as a lawyer at the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania consists in carrying out research outlined the following subheadings:

- Finding out the necessary documentation about Church properties countrywide.
- Compiling and synthesising a database on Church properties for all provinces of Albania, including cities and villages using data extracted from state and private documents.
- Identification and location of these properties by way of combination of the related documentation with *in situ* visits.

PUBLICATIONS: *European System for Protection of Human Rights*, Master's dissertation.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS: COMPUTERS **WINDOWS, MS WORD, EXCEL, FILE-MAKER PRO 5.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

English – Advanced level

Italian – Advanced level

Orgest (Kristo) Paskali

Birth Date: April 13, 1977

Marital Status: Single

Address: Kryepiskopata Ortodokse
Rruga e Kavajes, Nr 151
Tirana, Albania.
Phone: +355 69 22 52 158

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education:

1991 – 1995 General High School "Sami Frasheri", Permet
1995 – 1998 "Resurrection of Christ", Orthodox Theological Academy, Saint Vlash, Durres.

Qualifications:

1. Internet and Publisher, certified with Excellent Results, at the "Abraham Lincoln", professional Centre
2. Qualification Curs for using Video Camera, Beta System.
3. Very good skills on Computer Programmes as: MS Word, MS Excel, Power Point, Quark Express, World Map.
4. Very good user of GPS (global position system).
5. Capable using Camera, making pictures and fixing photographs using Adobe Photoshop.

Details:

GPS makes possible identification and measures different objects via satellite reception creating tracks and routes on the surface we are working.

Other Languages:

- English: Very good Written and Spoken.
- Greek: Very good Spoken
- Italian: Very good Written and Spoken.

Relative Experience:

July 1998 – August 1999 Cameraman close by a Greek TV producer Team, for making documentary films and archival films for the Orthodox Church of Albania.

November 2002 – continuing: Employee of the Orthodox Archdiocese as a technician, for measuring and Identification of properties of the Orthodox Church, using GPS.

Hobbies :

Books, music, sport, trips.

Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

APPEAL FOR A PROJECT PLANNING GRANT

THE MONASTERY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 'ARDENICA' IN MYZEQE (CENTRAL ALBANIA):

An Important Monument of European Culture In Urgent Need of Conservation

Person through whom application is made: **Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis**

TIRANA 2003

Preliminary Letter

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis
Kryepishkopata Orthodhokse
Rr. e Kavajës, Tiranë, Albania
Tel.: 00355-692-486803
0030-6942-989195
E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr and
kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

Monday 23 June 2003

Dear Mr. Costas Carras,

I am addressing this preliminary letter to you to appeal for assistance with the preservation of a site with outstanding religious, historical, architectural, art historical and cultural significance: **the Monastery of Ardenicë in Myzeqe**, Central Albania. This is not only a monument of major importance for Byzantine and post-Byzantine Art and Architecture in Albania and in the Balkans, but it is also an important European monument of the 18th Century. Furthermore, it has become *a symbol of* Orthodox *Christianity* in all Albania, as it is the sole monument of Orthodox Christianity, which, having been used by the Communist regime as an army barrack and, later, as a leisure centre up to 1996, has been restored to its centuries-old function as a monastery.

Following the fall of the communist regime and ideology (1991), the Albanian society was left with an ongoing spiritual vacuum. Albanians believe that it is easier to construct roads and houses and to resolve basic energy problems, than to change old mentalities and fill the inner spiritual vacuum. The crisis of the spiritual values in Albania has affected social institutions, such as the family, the school and the interrelations among people. Especially the youth suffers from despair and a lack of hope, while increasingly more young people believe that Albania has no future. It is for these very reasons why religious communities are very important in seeking solutions to these problems.

Thanks to its geographic position, historical importance and spiritual irradiation, the Ardenicë Monastery, providing free access to the public, attracts thousands of pilgrims and visitors every year. These come from different ethnic, religious, social and economic backgrounds. People of all ages, from childhood to senescence, in an organised or non-organised basis, in groups (tourist groups, friends, companies, unions, schools, faculties of universities, etc.) or individually, regularly or occasionally, visit the monastery *en masse*. We strongly believe that the Ardenicë Monastery, thanks to its high esteem for both Christians and Muslims, is playing the crucial role of witness in the process of rediscovering spiritual values during this transitional period.

However, due to the transformations of the monastery and the lack of a proper conservation, guest houses and guest-rooms, rooms for gatherings and discussions, as well as rooms suitably equipped to serve the educational and spiritual needs of children either have fallen into disuse, or are no longer available. This limits the potential of the monastery to fully deploy its spiritual and social activities. It is, therefore, essential for these rooms, which once existed within the monastery, to be restored to their original functions. This shall not only facilitate the social roles of the monastery, but would also mean the conservation of a symbol, the partial restoration of spiritual values in a much suffering society, and the partial restitution of hope in a youth agonised from a lack of vision. Therefore, this project also strengthens the social, cultural and religious infrastructure of Albania and raises environmental issues and an awareness related to the protection of European cultural heritage within its natural environment.

When the Monastery of Ardenicë was returned to the Orthodox Church of Albania in 1996, minor restorative interventions were undertaken that continued until 1999. (A summary of these is included in the leaflet attached.) These interventions, though, were dictated more by the need to restore the monument to its original function as a monastery, rather than through a general plan to deal with the monastery's major geological, static, constructional and architectural problems.

Since 1999, the monastery's condition has deteriorated remarkably, resulting in an urgent need for restoration. However, due to the perplexity and the size of the project, the Orthodox Church of Albania is unable to fully undertake the financial burden of the project, while it is prepared to cover between 10 % and 20 % of the Project Planning Grant. This is the reason why we are addressing this preliminary letter to you, in order to request initially a **Project Planning Grant** and, later, a **Project Implementation Grant**. Since the monastery's serious problems are continuously and intensely deteriorating, any possible funds are urgently requested as soon as possible. Funds with regards to the Project Planning are sought for:

1) The necessary hydro-geological, archival, historical, photographic, structural, condition, archaeological and landscape surveys, necessary to document and evaluate the condition of the building, as well as for developing plans of future use and maintenance of the monastery.
2) The preparation of the current site, architectural and art historical drawings.
3) The conducting of testing and analysis to determine the nature of the problems and appropriate conservation techniques.
4) Compiling analytical recommendations for conservation, supported by technical specifications (i.e. drawings) and budget estimates.
5) Synthesizing and developing all data pieced together into a comprehensive conservation master plan.

In the end of the document follows an outline of the project planning budget, which is also *a rough estimate* of the amount of financial support being requested. In our effort to be realistic, the amounts cited there were rounded to the highest number and, therefore, are likely to be lower when the project comes into effect.

The Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania is a non-profit, charitable religious institution, which has been entrusted many grants so far to do with humanitarian aid (especially during the Kosovo crisis), cultural, educational and development projects. For more information, please, visit the website of the Orthodox Church of Albania, at: http://www.orthodoxalbania.org

In order to provide you a hint of the values of Ardenicë Monastery as a monument of European heritage, we are attaching you a CD with two Power Point files. The one contains a brief description of the historical, architectural, art historical, cultural and religious values of the monastery. The other consists in an outline description of the problems of the monastery that compel us to make this urgent appeal for conservation funds.

I hold a Ph.D. in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies from the University of Birmingham, and I am currently working as an external colleague of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania in the field of monuments of culture and archives. **The Orthodox Church of Albania**, as a Church, **acts as a non-profit, charitable organization** in various fields of activities. One of these fields is the restoration of the monuments of culture that have been returned to the Church by the state authorities, whose predecessors confiscated them in 1967.

For any further enquiries, please contact me, preferably through e-mail, as postal facilities are still not very reliable in Albania.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis

A Rough Estimate of the Amount of Financial Support Requested for a Project Planning Grant

Kind of Survey	Aim	Estimated Amount
1) Historical, archival, architectural, art historical and photographic.	To document and evaluate the condition of the monastery.	$ 6,000
2) Geological, technical and hydrotechnical.	To study the hydro-geological problems of the monastery and recommend appropriate techniques for their solution.	$ 8,000
3) Structural, condition, consolidation and restoration.	To determine the static, constructional and architectural problems of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 13,000
4) Condition, consolidation and conservation of the wall-paintings.	To determine the problems of the wall-paintings and icons of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 4,000
5) Condition and conservation of wood-carvings.	To determine the problems of the wood-carved objects of art the monastery, as well as other wooden materials and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 5,000
6) Condition and conservation of metal and silver works.	To determine the problems of the 18th-20th Century metal and silver works of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
7) Condition and conservation of holy vestments	To determine the problems of the old vestments of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 1,000
8) Condition and conservation of ceramics.	To determine the problems of the 18th-20th Century ceramics of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
9) Condition and conservation of marble spolia.	To determine the problems of the various marble spolia placed within the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
10) Condition and conservation of manuscripts, old prints and photographs.	To determine the problems of the 18th-20th Century manuscripts, old, prints and photographs, of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
11) Environmental	To study the natural setting of the monument, determine the environmental problems of the site and recommend appropriate strategies for their solution.	$ 6,000
12) Legal	To search for title deeds of the once state-confiscated landed properties of the monastery, in order to check the possibilities of restitution in full or in part. This shall help in the preparation of plans of future use of the monastery.	$ 3,000
		TOTAL
		$ 54,000

Why Ardenicë Monastery is a Monument of European Heritage

Situated on the highest hill among a group of knolls of a North to South axis lying in the middle of the large valley of Myzeqe, Ardenicë Monastery justifies its reputation as '*the Castle of Myzeqe*'. The Sacred Monastery of Ardenicë, dedicated to the Nativity of the All-Holy Theotokos (8 September), has always been an important spiritual, cultural and historical centre for the Orthodox Church. Its importance was owed chiefly to its geographical position close to the Via Egnatia.

According to local tradition, the monastery as such was founded in the 13th or 14th Century, in the times of the Despotate of Epiros. The catholicon (central church) of the Nativity of the Virgin was built in 1743 through contributions assumed by merchants from Voskopojë activated in Venice, Austria, Poland and Hungary, on the site of an older church which is said to have been destroyed together with the monastery towards the end of the 17th Century either due to a fire, or due to an earthquake. In rebuilding it, priest-monk Nektarios Terpos from Voskopojë (Moschopolis, South-Western Albania), a distinguished Church personality and a fiery preacher of the 18th Century, assumed a crucial role. Two years after the rebuilding of the monastery, in 1745, Abbot Antonios of Ardenicë wrote to the benefactors of the monastery requesting them once more to financially assist the newly erected monastery. Funds raised from this dole, as well as from regular contributions to the monastery contributed in the gradual re-erection of the other monastic buildings.

The catholicon is fully decorated with frescoes. Its wall-paintings are the work of two brother painters from the city of Korçë (South-Western Albania), Constantinos and Athanasios Zografi, who have also painted in a number of other monuments in Macedonia, Greece and Mount Athos. Worth mentioning are the representations of the seven saints that Christianised the Slavs and of St. John Koukouzeles from Durrës (Gk. Dyrrachion, It. Durazzo), the famous Byzantine musicologist of the 12th Century, all of which are painted in the northern part of the western wall of the nave. Furthermore, characteristic is the cycle of Christ's Passion in the third zone of frescoes, which is particularly developed in this monument. The icons of the iconostasis were also painted in 1744 by another well-known painter of the 18th Century, Constantinos from the region of Shpat, Elbasan. Among the icons of the iconostasis once was that of St. John-Vladimir, which contained a miniature of the Albanian prince Carl Thopia. This icon is now exhibited in the Museum of Medieval Art in Korçë. The icons of the crucified Christ, of the Mother of God and of St. John the Theologian, painted on the *Lypera* cross at the top of the iconostasis are not the works of the painter Constantine from Shpat, but are attributed to a painter of the so-called 'Italo-Byzantine' tradition.

The original iconostasis must have been completed around 1744, which repairs made in 1804. From the same period are also the ambo, the diakonikon and an icon-stand. All these wood-carvings are covered by golden paint. Their impressive decoration with elements from the kingdom of flora and fauna classify them among the best examples of wood-carving of that province, comparable to other wood-carvings from the islands of the Ionian Sea and Epiros (Greece). In the interior of the catholicon there are also other works of Art worked in metal, such as the oil-lamps dated 1725 and 1745, which bear floral decorations in relief. Many of the art objects of the monastery, such as icons, silver works and holy vestments are kept in private and museum collections in at least two European countries, as far as we are aware of, Greece and Italy.

Once the monastery possessed a remarkable library, which was considered to be among the richest of the place. The reputation of the monastery compelled the faithful to present to the monastery books in different languages. In 1932, however, this library and its holdings were altogerther completely destroyed by fire, including invaluable manuscripts and precious old prints of the monastery together with other holdings of great value. Among the holdings that

were saved as they were not in the library at the time of the fire, there is an Old Testament in Greek dated in the 18th Century, printed either in Vatican or in Venice.

After the conflagration the monastery ceased to have a monastic brotherhood, while the monastery was served by laymen who took care of the monastery's numerous estates. It was there that the Archbishop Kristofor Kisi, as well as, for 10 years, Bishop Irene Banushi from Shkodra, were sent to an internment (the latter of which from 1952-1967). The latter of these saved the monastery from the atheistic obsession of the communist regime to destroy religious houses. He persuaded both teachers and students not to damage it, because would have been an irreplaceable cultural, spiritual and historical loss, since the Ardenicë is considered to be the place where in May 1451 Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu was crowned a king. At that time, in 1967, the monastery avoided any damage, but the one-year's installation of an army unit caused remarkable damages to the monastery.

Later the monastery was declared a 'Monument of Culture' and was set under state protection and circa 1988 it functioned as a leisure centre. It was oficccialy restituted to the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania on the Good Thursday of 1996. Due to its history and religious, architectural and artistic values, as well as due to the fact that this is the sole monastery functioning as such in post-Communist Albania, Ardenicë is not simply a monastery, but also a symbol of Orthodox Christianity for the entire Albania. Therefore, it attracts a high number of pilgrims from European and non-European countries. Today, the major undertaking of compiling a research project for the complete conservation of the monastery is in progress.

Preliminary Report

on the Various Problems of Ardenicë Monastery

DATES OF VISITS: 20/03/2003 AND 02/04/2003

1) General problems:

- The hill on which the monastery is situated is suffering from serious erosion, which is causing the majority of the monastery's problems.
- Deforestation on the hill due to natural or artificial causes is aggravating and accelerating the process of erosion.
- The main electrical line has not been properly installed: there is no centre of supply and distribution for the electricity. There are no precautionary measures against indirect contact (i.e., wires lie exposed on wooden and other surfaces, even in the oil-deposit) [**fig. 1-15**]; even in the catholicon, exposed wires (those not in metallic raceways) lie on wooden elements. There are no ground wires, and there are no protective measures against fire. Electrical panels are too old [**fig. 16-17**] to be suitable. One of the central panels is placed in an unsuitable location.
- Disintegration of most of the supportive wooden elements [**fig. 18-24**].

2) Problems of the Monastic Buildings:

- Erosion has caused perimetrically deep diagonal cracks and splits in the northern, western and southern walls of the monastery, as well as in the monastic buildings attached to them. This is understandable, considering that, according to the members of the monastic community that experienced the 1996 conservation effort, the foundations of the monastery, in general, do not go deeper than 50 cm underground [**fig. 25-51**].
- The seams of the masonry have been degraded, allowing the penetration of moisture into the interior of the monastic wings.
- The wooden elements have started to disintegrate, and are gradually loosing their static role [**fig. 18-24**].
- In a few cells the walls are damp because of leakages in WC drains.
- The reception room, located over the main entrance to the monastery, has a transversal crack due to the separation of the external vault outside the entrance from the vault inside the main gate. The reception room stands on these vaults [**fig. 54-55**]. Wooden beams in the hayat (gallery) are infested with insects and are rotting away [**fig. 53**].
- The visitors' cells (on the eastern side of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity) have deep diagonal cracks, which were caused by the sliding foundations [**fig. 42-47, 58-61**]. Deterioration of the walls from moisture as a result of the difference of the ground elevation levels, the disintegration of the masonry

seams [**fig. 57**], and the lack of a proper drainage system and insulation system against moisture from the outside [**fig. 52**].

- The secondary kitchen of the monastery suffers from damp as a consequence of the penetration of water from the roof.
- The northern part of the main gate of the monastery's entrance has fallen due to a damage caused to its hinge. This results that the gates do not close properly [**fig. 56**].
- The visitor's toilets of the monastery are defective.

3) Problems of the St. Trinity Chapel:

- Complete disintegration of the joints between the stones [**fig. 62-64**].
- Signs of moisture in the interior, either due to a defective roof, or to the lack of a drainage system which causes water to accumulate in the courtyard just outside the chapel [**fig. 65**].
- The floor in the interior was raised about 1.20 m, leaving the original floor underneath [**fig. 66-69, 71**]. The new floor was supported by a bole (!), which today appears much degraded [**fig. 70**].
- The original floor appears triturated up to a certain degree and needs conservation [**fig. 71**].

4) Problems of the catholicon of the monastery.

- In the exterior of the catholicon, the apse of the eastern side, as well as the northern wall of the church, suffer from cracks as a result of the erosion [**fig. 72-73**].
- The seams of the masonry in part of the southern wall [**fig. 74**], as well as the wooden elements of the northern wall, are disintegrating.
- Damage to the stone pavement of the hayat [**fig. 75**].
- The tiles are falling off the roof. There is no drainage system whatsoever, as the original gutters were removed during the previous restoration effort [**fig. 76**]. Depressions and holes are now appearing in the roof.
- Disintegration of the wooden elements of the interior due to worms and infestation [**fig. 77**].

5) Problems of the wall-paintings of the monastery

- Damage to the supportive structures has caused partial damage (such as cracks, detachment from the wall and, occasionally, falling of the frescoes) to the pictorial surface of the eastern wall and the eastern edge of the northern wall.
- Presence of moisture damage (resembling capillary flow) in the frescoes painted under the windows, which were placed in the catholicon during the

last conservation effort. Moisture caused by the condensation of the air of the atmosphere in frescoes placed closer to heating elements, or by atmospheric droplets in other parts of the frescoes. These have caused the creation of calcium salts [**fig. 78, 81-84**].

- Pollution, infestation and the initial stages of rotting in the icons of the iconostasis [**fig. 79**].

6) **Problems of the wood-carvings.**

Infestation and the initial stages of rotting of the wood-carved iconostasis, the Episcopal throne, and the *ambon* of the monastery [**fig. 80**].

7) **Problems of the metal and silver works of art.**

A number of works of smiths are kept in monastery vault under rather poor conditions and are in need of conservation. Their problems include Cracks and other damages [**fig. 85-90**].

8) **Problems of holy vestments**.

A number of old holy vestments has been recently discovered in the monastery, while others are said to be kept by faithful locals who protected them in the period of the atheist communistic regime and are said to be willing to return them to the monastery. They are in a very bad condition and need conservation [**fig. 91-92**].

9) **Problems of the ceramics**.

Recently an evaluation was made of the various broken ceramics kept in the monastery. They were all dated between the 18th and 20th Century and should be included in the rarities of the monastery, since the study of ceramics is not developed in Albania; as a result, many old ceramics have been destroyed and the ones preserved in Ardenicë Monastery are among the few left intact. They all are in need of conservation [**fig. 93-96**].

10) **Problems of the marble spolia**.

Previous restoration efforts did not take into consideration the values of Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, early-Christian and other marble spolia placed within the monastery. As a consequence, not only no provission has been taken for their conservation, but careless works of the monument's masonry has intensified the problems of these spolia [**fig. 97-99**]. Therefore, they need of care of specialised conservators, as they are considered to be an asset for the monastery.

11) **Problems of the old prints of the monastery.**

Last week, looking the contents of two big bags we discovered a large number of old liturgical prints chiefly in Greek. Some of them could be dated to the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th Century, while one of the holdings is a quite rare Gospel in Greek with a parallel translation in Albanian by use of Greek fonts. As was expected, all of these suffer from infestation and are in need of disinfection and restoration [**fig. 100-101**].

The Monastery of Ardenicë, Myzeqe

General view of the monastery from the W.

1. Geographical and historical overview.

The Monastery of Ardenicë is the largest and most eminent monastery in the region of Myzeqe, a large area in central Albania, consisting largely of plains and fields. Most of Albania's grain is produced in this area. The monastery is situated on the top of a hill in a very picturesque location: from one side there is a broad view of the field of Myzeqe, whereas on the other, the view extends to the Adriatic Sea. The area encircling the monastery is forested with cypress and sea pine trees. The view of the monastery from a distance is very impressive.

The monastery was built in various phases, the oldest of which may be attributed to the Byzantine period. According to legend, the marriage service of the great Prince George Castriota, Scanderbeg, took place in 1477 in the old catholicon, what is today the chapel of the Holy Trinity.

During the Ottoman rule, the monastery played a very important role in impeding Islamization (= conversions to Islam). It became a centre of letters, a school, and a place where practical agricultural skills were taught to area residents. As a result, the monastery became a point of reference and a religious, cultural and paedagogical centre.

In 1967, when the Communist regime in Albania forbade all religious activities, the monastery was deserted and initially used as an army barrack. Later, it was declared a monument of culture, and as such it functioned as a leisure centre, being used as a hotel, restaurant, bar, disco-club, etc.

In 1996, the state returned the Ardenicë Monastery to the Orthodox Church of Albania. As a result, the monument returned to its initial function as a monastery with a small monastic community, and it continues to serve as a spiritual centre for area residents. Being, however, the sole monastery functioning as such in post-Communist Albania, **the Monastery of Ardenicë** is not simply highly esteemed by the local community, but **has become a symbol of Orthodox Christianity throughout Albania**.

2. Architectural Overview.

Built in the shape of a triangle, the monastery occupies a surface area of about 2,500m^2 (26,900 square feet). The catholicon of the monastery, which is dedicated to the Nativity of the Theotokos, was built in the centre of the monastic buildings and is enveloped by the guesthouse. In the northeast corner of the Church of the Nativity, there is the chapel of the Holy Trinity. In the

Monastery of Ardenicë, Myzeqe. Views of the monastic buildings.

monastery's yard, in front of the west guesthouse, is the main well, while cisterns are scattered around the territory of the monastery. Other monastic facilities include a bakery, an oil press, library, stables and warehouses.

The guesthouses have a typical structure for monastic buildings: the rooms are situated in rows, one after the other, lengthwise, and open into galleries, which, on the ground floor, consist of stone columns, whereas those of the top floor with wood columns.

The basilical-style catholicon, built in 1740, has a flat wooden ceiling. It was constructed through contributions by the locals, as well as merchants from Voskopojë (once a centre of letters in southwestern Albania), and faithful Christians from regions situated in today's Romania, Austria and Poland. The church is composed of the naos, narthex, with southern and western galleries, and a belfry tower that is elevated in the southwest corner of the church. Two rows of wooden columns divide it into three naves. In the surrounding architectonic elaborations, both the colonnade of the south gallery and the apse are worked with carved lime-stone and revived with a blind and brick arcade. Some *spolia* of ancient relief were placed in the masonry and are presumed to be from nearby ancient sites, perhaps even from Apollonia.

3. The paintings, wood-carvings and other art objects of the Catholicon.

The catholicon was painted in 1744 by the the brothers Konstantinos and Athanasion Zografi from Korçë. This is the first known work of these painters, who are classified among the best

Monastery of Ardenicë. The interior of the catholicon visited by His Beautitude, the Archbishop Anastasios. Part of the wood-carved 1740 iconostasis with its impressive icons. A part of the monastery's frescoes on the far right.

painters of the 18th Century in monuments from Albania and Macedonia, as well as Greece and Mount Athos. The paintings were made with the frescoe technique and are developed in zones. Holding a prominent place among the iconographic circles is the circle of the Passion. Other treasures of the frescoes include a rare representation of St. John Koukouzelis, the famous musicologist and melodist of 12th Century Byzantium whose origins are from Durrës; the seven saints who Christianised the Slavs; and the painting of a local saint.

A carved wooden iconostasis with exceptional artistic values divides the naos from the altar. It contains icons of a high artistic quality, some of which are the works of another famous painter of the 18th century, Konstantinos, from Shpat. Other wood-carved masterpieces include the ambon and the episcopal throne.

Other art objects include a set of six oil-lamps, all bearing inscriptions mentioning the Monastery of Ardenicë and the date they were made. One of these oil-lamps is dated 1725, indicating that it was part of the previous structure of the monastery, which was rebuilt in 1740. Five others are dated 1745. Some other objects of metallurgy also date from the 18th Century.

4. The condition of the monument and restoration interventions (1996-1999)

During the communist regime the Ardenicë Monastery was converted into a leisure centre: a hotel, a restaurant, a club, a café etc. functioned there. Consequently, some adaptations were made to the Monastery after 1967 to suit its new purpose. Little maintenance was done on monastery from 19967 to 1996, and consequently, at the time the monument was restored to the Church, there were major problems with both the structural consolidation of the buildings as well as with restoring the complex to its initial use as a monastery.

The following work was undenrtaken for this purpose:

- Rebuilding of the church roof.
- Rebuilding of the roof of the guesthouse.
- Repairing the masonry of the guesthouse.
- Installation of doors and windows in the guesthouse.
- Restoration of the chapel of the Holy Trinity.
- Building of the iconostasis of the chapel of the Holy Trinity.
- Repairing of the monastery kitchens.
- Supplying the monastery with drinking water.
- Electrical, plumbing, and heating installations.

The Monastery of Ardenicë, Myzeqe. The catholicon during and after the 1996-1999 restoration interventions.

5. Technical and financial data

The restoration work of the church roof was implemented by the Branch of Monuments of Tirana. The rebuilding work of the roof and the masonry of the guesthouse were implemented by ELIRA construction company, directed by S. Kola, engineer. Finally, the restoration work of the chapel of the Holy Trinity was implemented by GEN-RED construction company, directed by R. Gega, architect-restorer of the State Institute of Monuments.

Holy Trinity chapel pictured before and after restoration

The building of the iconostasis for the chapel of the Holy Trinity was performed by the craftsman Z. Musha. The work was supervised by K. Sava, engineer of the Technical Office of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania.

The work was implemented between 1996 and 1999. The total value of the work reached the sum of 19.942.200 lekë (US$ 141,434)

Preliminary Letter

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
Αρ. Πρωτ. 965 Ημερομηνία 10.6.03

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis
Kryepishkopata Orthodhokse
Rr. e Kavajës, Tiranë, Albania
Tel.: 00355-692-486803
0030-6942-989195
E-mail: kgiakoum@acci.gr and
kostasgiakoumis@hotmail.com

Dear sir / madam,

I am addressing this preliminary letter to you to appeal for assistance with the preservation of a site with outstanding religious, historical, architectural, art historical and cultural significance: **the Monastery of Ardenicë in Myzeqe**, Central Albania. This is not only a monument of major importance for Byzantine and post-Byzantine Art and Architecture in Albania and in the Balkans, but it has also become *a symbol of* Orthodox *Christianity* in all Albania, as it is the sole monument of Orthodox Christianity that has been restored to its centuries-old function as a monastery. Its values are outlined in the leaflet attached.

I hold a Ph.D. in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies from the University of Birmingham, and I am currently working as an external colleague of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania in the field of monuments of culture and archives. **The Orthodox Church of Albania** [http://www.orthodoxalbania.org], as a Church, **acts as a non-profit, charitable organization** in various fields of activities. One of these fields is the restoration of the monuments of culture that have been returned to the Church by the state authorities, whose predecessors confiscated them in 1967.

When the Monastery of Ardenicë was returned to the Orthodox Church of Albania in 1996, minor restorative interventions were undertaken that continued until 1999. (A summary of these is included in the leaflet attached.) These interventions, though, were dictated more by the need to restore the monument to its original function as a monastery, rather than through a general plan to deal with the monastery's major geological, static, constructional and architectural problems.

Since 1999, the monastery's condition has deteriorated remarkably, resulting in an urgent need for restoration. However, due to the perplexity and the size of the project, the Orthodox Church of Albania is unable to fully undertake the financial burden of the project, while it is prepared to cover between 10 % and 20 % of the Project Planning Grant. This is the reason why we are addressing this preliminary letter to you, in order to request initially a **Project Planning Grant** and, later, a **Project Implementation Grant**. Since the monastery's serious problems are continuously and intensely deteriorating, any possible funds are urgently requested as soon as possible. Funds with regards to the Project Planning are sought for:

1) The necessary hydro-geological, archival, historical, photographic, structural, condition, archaeological and landscape surveys, necessary to document and evaluate the condition of the building, as well as for developing plans of future use and maintenance of the monastery.

2) The preparation of the current site, architectural and art historical drawings.
3) The conducting of testing and analysis to determine the nature of the problems and appropriate conservation techniques.
4) Compiling analytical recommendations for conservation, supported by technical specifications (i.e. drawings) and budget estimates.
5) Synthesizing and developing all data pieced together into a comprehensive conservation master plan.

In the end of the document follows an outline of the project planning budget, which is also *a rough estimate* of the amount of financial support being requested. In our effort to be realistic, the amounts cited there were rounded to the highest number and, therefore, are likely to be lower when the project comes into effect.

The Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania is a non-profit, charitable religious institution, which has been being entrusted with many grants so far to do with humanitarian aid (especially during the Kosovo crisis), cultural, educational and development projects. For more information, please, visit the website of the Orthodox Church of Albania, at: http://www.orthodoxalbania.org

For any further enquiries, please contact me, preferably through e-mail, as postal facilities are still not very reliable in Albania.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Konstantinos Giakoumis

A Rough Estimate of the Amount of Financial Support Requested for a Project Planning Grant

Kind of Survey	Aim	Estimated Amount
1) Historical, archival, architectural, art historical and photographic.	To document and evaluate the condition of the monastery.	$ 4,000
2) Geological, technical and hydrotechnical.	To study the hydro-geological problems of the monastery and recommend appropriate techniques for their solution.	$ 8,000
3) Structural, condition, consolidation and restoration.	To determine the static, constructional and architectural problems of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 13,000
4) Condition, consolidation and conservation of the wall-paintings.	To determine the problems of the wall-paintings and icons of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 4,000
5) Condition and conservation of wood-carvings.	To determine the problems of the wood-carved objects of art the monastery, as well as other wooden materials and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 5,000
6) Condition and conservation of metal and silver works.	To determine the problems of the 18th-20th Century metal and silver works of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
7) Condition and conservation of holy vestments	To determine the problems of the old vestments of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 1,000
8) Condition and conservation of ceramics.	To determine the problems of the 18th-20th Century ceramics of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
9) Condition and conservation of marble spolia.	To determine the problems of the various marble spolia placed within the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
10) Condition and conservation of manuscripts, old prints and photographs.	To determine the problems of the 18th-20th Century manuscripts, old, prints and photographs, of the monastery and compile analytical recommendations for conservation.	$ 2,000
11) Environmental	To study the natural setting of the monument, determine the environmental problems of the site and recommend appropriate strategies for their solution.	$ 6,000
12) Legal	To search for title deeds of the once state-confiscated landed properties of the monastery, in order to check the possibilities of restitution in full or in part. This shall help in the preparation of plans of future use of the monastery.	$ 3,000
		TOTAL
		$ 52,000