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- b) Panel 6. Turning Points in the Reception of Classical Antiquity
- c) Ancient Balkans in The European and World Science between Two World Wars:  
Activity of Belgrade's Balkaninstitut
- d) Length: 20 minutes

ANCIENT BALKANS IN THE EUROPEAN AND WORLD SCIENCE  
BETWEEN TWO WORLD WARS:  
ACTIVITY OF BELGRADE'S BALKANINSTITUT

Abstract

The paper analyzes the scholarly work of the Balkan Institute in Belgrade, founded in 1934, in whose foundation participated the well-known names of the scientific world of that time. The Institute was lead by famous balkanologists and university professors Milan Budimir (Belgrade) and Petar Skok (Zagreb). Their definition of balkanology as "human geography" placed the Balkans in the focus of both European and world science of the 30's in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many balkanologists from European universities accepted the cooperation with this important scientific institution. Previous professional literature on the Balkans was mainly fragmentary, so that an average European or American had a completely negative opinion of this important area. "Revue Internationale des Etudes Balkaniques", published by the Institute in several languages, had to represent the aims and importance of Balkan studies to the international public. More than two hundred scholars, both from the Balkans and the whole of Europe, published articles on archeology, topics on complete Balkan history and religion, literature, linguistics, byzantology, Middle Ages and New periods. The aim was to present what the ancient Balkans brought good and positive to the whole civilization, in articles by Paul Kretschmer, Guglielmo Ferrero, Pierre Charles Picard, Mihail Rostovcev, Tadeusz Zielinski, Marie Joseph Charles and Jacque Zeiller and many others, demonstrating the significance of the Balkans and its past, as well as the importance of its systematic and detailed research. Although this institution stopped working with the beginning of the Second World War, it has left, during eight years of its existence, the important trace both in Serbian, Yugoslav, European and world science.