Dear Sir or Madam,

This is the first circular letter for the forthcoming

13th International Congress of Thracology.

The congress will be held in the town of Kazanlak, Bulgaria, from September 3 to September 7, 2017, under the general heading

Ancient Thrace: Myth and Reality.

Contributions concerning any aspects of and approaches to Thracian antiquity are welcome. Thracian and related history, archaeology, art, culture, language, religion, numismatics, epigraphy and interdisciplinary studies will be among the fields and topics discussed, in a time-span ranging from the Bronze Age to Late Antiquity. The congress languages will be English, German and French.

The congress venue has been selected in a town housing an archaeological museum rich in valuable Thracian antiquities, surrounded by important archaeological sites, and possessing an adequate infrastructure (hotels, conference halls, restaurants) for an event of this kind and scope. Situated in a fabulous location on the upper Tundja (Tonzos) river, between the Stara Planina (Balkan or Haemus Mountain) and the Sredna Gora, in what is known as The Valley of Roses, Kazanlak houses a Thracian tomb famous for its mural paintings and placed on the UNESCO world heritage list; the ancient city of Seuthopolis (now submerged under an artificial lake) lay once in its close vicinity. Some of the most spectacular Thracian tombs excavated in recent times are to be found in the neighbourhood.

Congress participants should arrange to arrive in Kazanlak on September 3, a welcoming reception being planned in the evening. The congress program will include three working days on the 4th, 5th and 6th of September, organized in several sections and including breaks for short trips to local points of interest including the Kazanlak tomb, the Iskra Museum and some of the Thracian tombs in the vicinity of the town. The last day (September 7) will be devoted to a full-day trip to archaeological sites and museums to be chosen among several options.
Registration will be open online once the congress website starts working (which will be communicated in a second circular letter) and should be accomplished by December 31, 2016. It will include, besides a registration form, a brief summary of the proposed communications in one of the congress languages. You are encouraged to declare your wish to participate in the congress beforehand by sending an e-mail reply to the address <thracology.2017@gmail.com>.

The congress participation will entail a congress fee of 50 Euro if payed by March 31, 2017, or 75 Euro if payed later. A reduced congress fee of 30 Euro before and 45 Euro after March 31 will be expected from young scientists who would not have completed 35 years of age by September 2017. The modes of payment of these fees as well as details of travel and accommodation possibilities will be published on the website of the congress.

Please forward this letter to any of your contacts who you think might be interested in participating in the 13th International Congress of Thracology.

The Organizing Committee
Prof. Peter Delev (University of Sofia)
Prof. Totko Stoyanov (University of Sofia)
Prof. Svetlana Yanakieva (Centre of Thracology)
Assoc. Prof. Hristo Popov (National Archaeological Institute)
Assoc. Prof. Anelia Bozkova (National Archaeological Institute)
Assoc. Prof. Maya Vassileva (New Bulgarian University)
Momchil Marinov (Historical Museum Iskra, Kazanlak)