



INSTITUTE FOR NEOHELLENIC RESEARCH
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



**Academy of Athens Award
for edition of the Institute for Neohellenic Research / N.H.R.F.**

During its formal end-of-the year session of 12.28.2010 the Academy of Athens honored with the “Dionysis Kokkinos” Award the four-volume edition of the Institute for Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation

**Αρχείο Αλή Πασά. Συλλογής Ι. Χώτζη Γενναδείου Βιβλιοθήκης της Αμερικανικής Σχολής Αθηνών. Έκδοση - Σχολιασμός - Ευρετήρια
[Archive of Ali Pasha. Chotzis J. collection in the Gennadius Library / American School of Classical Studies, Athens. Edition-Commentary-Indexes]**

which was edited by Vassilis Panayiotopoulos, Emeritus Research Director INH/NHRF, in collaboration with P. Michailaris Research Director INH/NHRF and D. Dimitropoulos, Senior Research Associate INH/NHRF

Ali Pasha Tepelenli, Pasha of Ioannina (c. 1750-1822) presents as a controversial but indisputably predominant personage of Modern Greek history. This legendary figure is of as much interest for the history of the waning Ottoman Empire as, and especially, for the re-emerging national history of Albania. The latter, through the enhancement of the role of Albanian pashas in the *paşaliks* of the broader region of Albania and Epirus, shows the upgrading of the Albanian presence in the Ottoman system of administration and particularly in the persona and actions of Ali Pasha, as precursors of Albanian ethnic awakening.

The domain of the *paşalik* of Ioannina, with the internationalized Ionian Islands, which in the days of Ali Pasha saw the successive domination of four foreign powers (Venice, France, Russia, Britain) and his ambition to be seen as an idiosyncratic regional sovereign, triggered the engagement of an impressive series of writers, of the period as well as subsequently, in the subject of his governance and his person, bequeathing us excellent information, positive as to certain achievements and negative as to his barbarous conduct and crimes. Some published documents Ali himself had addressed to third persons, from diplomatic sources, are not inconsistent with the contradictory picture that springs from the testimonies of the written accounts.

To date, however, the great authentic source of information was lacking which would confirm or deny the prevalent – European and Greek – perception of the personage and his acts, i.e. his personal archive.

Ali Pasha’s personal archive, or rather the portion of it (1,500 documents) that survived through labyrinthine and partially untraceable conditions is today kept in the Gennadius Library in Athens and is published in its entirety in the present edition. With the faithful transcription of the documents, the systematic annotation and the provision of every assistance to the reader (indexes, glossaries, etc.) the understanding is facilitated of the function of a primitive or hegemonic system and of the abstruse bureaucracy accompanying it. Greek historiography on Ali Pasha has thus acquired a fresh strong pylon and concurrently a new basis for checking and cross-checking the narrative sources, which is the major advantage of this monumental publication.