

and the Old Spanish Epics (pp. 73-85) compare Digenes avec les deux poèmes espagnols *La Condesa traidora*, *Bernaldo del Carpio* et *Siete infates de Lara* etc. Hratch Bartikian, *Armenia and Armenians in the Byzantine Epic* (pp. 86-92) analyse ses opinions dans les sous-chapitres *Geography in the epic*, *Personal names in the epic*, tandis que Anthony Bryer dans son rapport *The Historian's Digenes Akrites* (pp. 93-102) discute quelques faits historiques dans les sous-chapitres: *The Palace*, *The Tomb*, *Politics*, *Geography*, *Economy*. Ulrich Moennig dans son *Digenes = Alexander? The Relationship between Digenes Akrites and the Byzantine Alexander Romance in their Different Versions* (pp. 103-115) compare les deux textes. George Kechagioglou, *Digenes Akrites in Prose, The Andros Version in the context of Modern Greek Literature* (pp. 116-130) analyse son thème dans les deux sous-chapitres, *The Writing of the prose Digenes Akrites*, *Poetics of the prose version, Linguistic character, The literary context*. Il suit le rapport de Theodore Papadopoullos *The Akritic Hero: Socio-Cultural status in the Light of Comparative Data* (pp. 131-138). Guy Saunier, dans son rapport *Is there such a thing as an "Akritic Song"? Problems in the Classification of Modern Greek Narrative Songs* après son introduction passe à l'examen des ses sujets: *Independent songs*, *The songs of the Digenes-Cycle*, *Conclusion* (pp. 139-149). Peter Mackridge avait comme rapport le thème *None but the brave deserve the Fair: Abduction, Elopement, Seduction and Marriage in the Escoriai Digenes Akrites and Modern Greek Heroic Songs* (pp. 150-161). David Ricks, *Digenes Akrites as Literature* (pp. 162-170) présente son rapport avec les sous-chapitres suivants: *Understatement*, *Direct speech*, *Repeated formulas*, *Special motifs*, *Conclusion*.

La bibliographie (pp. 171-185) et l'Index (pp. 186-196) clôturent la volume qui donne une image des recherches parues récemment au sujet de Digenes.

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Danilo L. Massagrande, *I governi dei Paesi balcanici dal secolo XIX al 1944. Volume I*, Milano, Edizioni di Comune di Milano "Amici del Museo del Risorgimento", 1994, pp. 204.

An exceptionally important point of reference and a valuable source of information, the celebrated *Almanach de Gotha* is a well-known work among scholars of history and heraldry. Its importance derives both from a pro-

longed existence and from the breadth and variety of the information it contains.

The *Almanach de Gotha* was first published in 1763 by the Geographical Institute of Justus Perthes in the German city of Gotha; thereafter it was published annually without exception until 1944. Initially a publication of the genealogies of royal houses and other courts in Europe (Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Italy, Spain etc.) and of the independent rulers of Germany, it was later enriched with political, diplomatic and statistical information on other countries as well. The annual political and diplomatic catalogues were also accompanied by the *Cronique*, a record of the year's events, and the *Additions et changements qui ont eu lieu pendant l'impression*, catalogue changes occurring after the *Almanach* had gone to press.

A crucial time for the evolution of the *Almanach*, as well as for this publication's origins, was the year 1824, when what was until then the *Liste des Agens diplomatiques des principales Cours de l'Europe* evolved into the *Annuaire diplomatique contenant une liste des Ministères des Puissances Européennes ainsi que des Agens diplomatiques des diverses Cours*. What this volume with particular success undertakes is a classification and critical edition of this latter segment of the celebrated *Almanach de Gotha*. It is a painstaking task, due to the huge volume and the special difficulties involved; nonetheless, it is an ambitious work and particularly important for historian researchers of Balkan countries.

It was not an easy task for the publisher to restore the complete catalogues of each year's members of each government, as the *Almanach* itself has serious omissions. Because of the fact that the data were recorded on an annual basis, in many cases—and particularly in times of political upheaval—it does not include changes occurring during the time which elapsed between two consecutive publications (a problem that to some extent the publication of the *Additions* is called upon to solve); in other cases, it presents the names of government officials after the list has already undergone certain corrective changes, but without including its original form. In an attempt to deal with this inherent problem and to fill in gaps, the editor takes care to include for each country at least two reliable works from which the reader can draw additional corresponding information or compare it with information presented in the *Almanach* itself.

The present publication includes an analytical list of government officials in five Balkan countries, as it derives from the *Almanach de Gotha*, with a chronology of the rise and fall of each government, the catalogue of Ministers

who participated, and the date each Ministry was assumed by the Ministers. The following countries are included:

*Bulgaria.* From the government of T. Burmov, 4/17.7.1879, until the government of K. Muraviev, 2.9.1944.

*Moldavia.* From the government of A. Sturdza, 1851, until the government of A. C. Moruzi, 5/17.10.1861.

*Wallachia.* From the government of G. Baleanu, 1841, until the government of D. Ghica, 19/31.7.1861.

*Romania.* From the government of B. Catargiu, 22.1/3.2.1862, until the government of 1944.

*Serbia.* From the government of 1856, until the government of N. Pašić, 3/16.11.1918.

It should be noted that the dates used for each country are those in which each country is presented in *Almanach de Gotha* comprehensively. The publication is also accompanied by a complete index of names, rendering it a useful tool for readers.

Unquestionably, this publication constitutes an important manual for those studying the history of the Balkan region, both because of the richness of the information given and the particular care taken in arranging it, and because of the long period of time it spans. For this reason, the publication of the second volume—which has already been announced—is expected impatiently; it will include the countries Albania, Greece, Montenegro, the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia), and the countries which made a brief appearance on Yugoslav soil during World War II.

*Institute for Balkan Studies*

ELEFThERIA MANDA

Vlavianos Haris, *Greece, 1941-49: From Resistance to Civil War*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992. pp. XVII+350, ISBN: 0-312-06573-6.

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