

All in all, *Dumbarton Oaks Papers No 16* will provide the serious scholar with many, many hours of penetrating reading. The wide range of topics covered fully illustrates the extent of Byzantine research and the need for considerable investigations that are to follow in the future. The volume itself is beautifully printed in large format and the illustrations are a valuable and necessary addition to the articles.

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L.S. Stavrianos, *The Balkans 1815-1914*. Berkshire Studies in European History. New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, London: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1963. pp. vii. 135.

This small paperback book is one in a series of excellent handbooks published for the use of university courses in European history and for the use of the interested and intelligent general reader. Professor Stavrianos of Northwestern University was well suited to write the volume on the Balkans in view of his extensive publications, interest, preparation, and competence in this field and in view of the fact that his one-volume study *The Balkans since 1453** (New York, 1958) is the most detailed and most recent comprehensive survey to date of this subject. In fact, the present publication is based upon the earlier *magnum opus*, and the reader who, after finishing this small work, wishes more details and further discussion, will find that he can satisfy his curiosity and his thirst for historical knowledge with the larger volume.

Professor Stavrianos emphasizes that Balkan history is vitally important for at least three reasons: 1, it demonstrates the impact that Balkan history has had on general European diplomacy; 2, it provides a classic case study of nationalism at work; and 3, it furnishes the reader and scholar with an interesting example of the impact that a dynamic industrialized West had upon a static, agrarian society.

The Balkans 1815-1914 provides the reader with four brief but highly informative and fascinating chapters on "The Land and the People," "Awakening of Nationalities, 1815-1856," "Winning of Independence, 1856-1878," and "Age of Imperialism and Capitalism, 1874-1914," together with a critical bibliography and index. Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania and Turkey are adequately discussed for such a necessarily brief book but Albania, though mentioned, perhaps

* Reviewed by G. G. Arnakis in *Balkan Studies* II, 2 (1961) pp. 322-3.

should have received fuller treatment. The interactions between the Great Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Austro-Hungarian Empire are brilliantly elucidated and the total context of European history is rightly held in its proper perspective.

The Balkans 1815-1914 is an excellent, though brief, objective introduction to the subject and deserves wide circulation and attention.

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Katerina I. Kakouri, *Διονυσιακά* [Dionysiaka]. Athens 1963, pp. 244.

This notable work is a doctoral dissertation accepted by the Faculty of Arts of Athens University and has also carried the award for Folk-lore research of the Greek National Academy.

According to a statement by the author herself in the preface, this volume forms only part of a much larger study on magical rites of the popular religion of contemporary Hellenism and is the fruit of a long and careful investigation of this special type of Thracian customs. It is based on her own personal experiences as an eye-witness of the customs and ceremonies, but also much use was made by her of unpublished material from the Athens Folk-lore Archives. The book is enriched by several photographs of the customs' performances; this is an advantage which greatly adds to the value of the book as a reliable source.

The starting point of her enquiry, as the author states, was originally a communication made by her before the Athens National Academy in 1952, which was seconded by Academician Prof. K. Romaios. In that communication for the first time the connexion between the two customs *Anastenaria* and *Calogheros* was made known to scholars and also their survival to the present day.

The first part of the present work contains a full and, indeed, very minute description of the feast of *Anastenaria* together with the custom of fire-walking which takes place on May 21st, St. Constantine's day. The *Anastenaria* was a native popular enthusiastic cult of the villages of N. E. Thrace and southern Bulgaria.

Another equally detailed description of the custom of *Calogheros* of the Thracian village Costi follows, which has survived to-date in the village Hagia Eleni of Serres, observed yearly by Greek refugees from Costi after their expatriation by the Bulgarians. It would be useful to folk-lorists and other readers interested in the subject if we