

A.A. Pallis, *Greek Miscellany: A Collection of Essays on Mediaeval and Modern Greece*. Athens, 1964. Pp. 187. Frontispiece and 20 plates.

It is always encouraging to see the publication in English of works on Mediaeval and Modern Greece, and when such a publication is the work of a man who has himself been involved in the making of history it is even of greater interest to the student of Greece. The present volume is a collection of essays originally delivered as lectures to various universities and learned organizations when the author was serving in London as Head of the Greek Office of Information during the period 1945 - 1952, some of them having been delivered for the Koraeas Chair of Byzantine and Modern Greek at King's College, London. Now recast in the form of essays, they provide a miscellany of material on the history and literature of Greece. The nine essays and the accompanying plates are a worthy addition to the ever-growing number of publications in English on mediaeval and modern Greece.

The essays, as a whole, in spite of their variety in theme and coverage, provide the reader with valuable insight into the development of modern Greece. The author has sub-divided his book into four major headings: (1) Hellenism and the Orient; (2) Frankish Greece; (3) Turco-Graecia; (4) Modern Greece.

There is properly only one essay on the ancient world and that is the first one on "The Oriental Legend of Alexander the Great" (14-28), which fascinatingly traces the impact of the legend of Alexander the Great among Asiatics, particularly among the Persians, but which convincingly shows that the legend travelled as far east as Java (Malayan version), Central Asia and Russia, west through Italy and France to England, Scotland, and even Iceland. The essay is, interestingly enough, inspired by the author's interest in Persian miniature-painting, where he discovered depictions of Alexander the Great as a Tartar Sultan.

The section on Frankish Greece is particularly appropriate in view of the recent publication of Harold Lurier's *Crusaders as Conquerors: The Chronicle of Morea* (New York and London, Columbia University Press, 1964). Pallis' essay on "The Chronicle of Morea" (30-45) introduces the reader through the Chronicle, written by a Frank, born or at any rate raised and resident in Morea, to the period 1204-1292. Though Pallis does not find the work of any literary value, he very adequately uses the chronicle to illustrate the history and culture of this usually little known period in Greek history, whereas "The Chronicle of Leontios Machairas" (46-64) written by a Greek Cypriot around the middle of the

fifteenth century, is used to illustrate the continuity of Greek culture under the Lusignan Kings of Cyprus. Relations with Genoese, Saracens, and Armenians are revealed through the Chronicle and Pallis does a good job of relating not only the historical but also the religious and cultural interactions between East and West.

The three essays on Turco-Graecia are of unusually great interest in the light of modern Greek and Turkish history. "Cyril Lukaris: Patriarch of Constantinople" (1620-1638), which covers pages 66-83, provides the reader with a vivid account of the relations between the Orthodox and Reformed Churches, especially in the figure of the Patriarch Lukaris and the Dutch Minister, Cornelius van Haga and his Chaplain Antoine Leger. The machinations within Turkey and internationally to establish a union between the Orthodox and Calvinist Churches are set against a background of political and international intrigue that would keep any reader in suspense, whereas the charming essay called "A Seventeenth-Century Turkish Beadeker" (84-101) brings to light a little known travel book of the Turkish Evliya Chelebi of the 17th century that makes that period spring to life. "The Phanariots—A Greek Aristocracy under Turkish Rule" (102-124) is an important survey of the history and significance of these Greeks for the governing of the Ottoman Empire but also for the part they played in spreading nationalism and education among the Balkan peoples.

The first of the essays on Modern Greece deals with that part of the Greek world that never saw Turkish domination, the Ionian Islands, but looked to and was dominated by the West (Venetians, French, Russian, the English). "Ionian Society in the Nineteenth Century" (126-147) is a very readable and necessary essay for understanding the role the Ionian Islands have played and continue to play in the history of Modern Greece. "Memoirs of the Greek War of Independence—And After" (143-163) centers on the figures and memoirs of General Ioannis Makriyannis, Nicholas Cassomoulis, Theodore Colocotronis, Fotakos, Nicholas Dragoumis. These illustrate three types which Pallis asserts constitute the fiber of modern Greek society, namely, "the uncultured yet imaginative men of the mountains; the semi-educated product of the country districts and, finally, the educated westernized urban type of Greek from whom the governing classes in Greece have been drawn since the Revolution of 1843" (p. 162). The last essay on "The Ballad - Poetry of Modern Greece" (164-187) is an introduction to modern Greek folk poetry with ample quotations to whet the reader's interest and

show him how important this poetry was and is for the development of modern Greek literature.

Greek Miscellany is not a scholarly work but a charming collection of general essays that both the initiated and uninitiated student will find engrossing and stimulating. They can and will serve as a highly palatable introduction to medieaval and modern Greece and can provide, even in their diversity, ample evidence of the continuity of Greek culture and the enduring quality of the Greek spirit.

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D. J. A. Ross: *Alexander Historiatus. A Guide to Medieval Illustrated Alexander Literature*. Warburg Institute Surveys. Number One. London 1963 Pp. V + 128.

The Medieval illustrations of the Alexander story are the subject of this survey by Dr. Ross. He excludes only the purely Oriental Alexander books, and illustrations of Alexander subjects which occur outside books (whether manuscripts or printed). This economically produced book lists illustrated manuscripts and early printed editions of all European literary material connected with Alexander the Great, which were produced from Antiquity up to the Renaissance. An attempt is made to arrange the material systematically in order to demonstrate relationships between various romances and chronicle-biographies about Alexander. Consequently Dr. Ross analyses not only the romances based ultimately on the Late Antique Egypto-Greek Romance known as Pseudo-Callisthenes, but also the principal historical accounts of Alexander, ranging from the authoritative work of Arrian to the Quasi-Romance of Quintus Curtius. A brief bibliography is given of the best available editions and the principal studies of each text.

Dr. Ross' purpose, after several years of study, is to map the ground and give a general picture of the field. The information is highly condensed, and proofs are not offered concerning iconographical relationships between picture-cycles and texts. Such studies are to be published separately, an arrangement which does tend to give a bold and dogmatic aspect to this reference-book.

The survey is arranged in two parts. Part One deals with legendary versions. Ordinary people from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance owed their knowledge of Alexander the Great to the book of Pseudo-Callisthenes, composed probably in the third century A.D. and itself derived