

British author Patrick Leigh Fermor, an indefatigable traveller and an explorer of remote places, ventured to travel to Mani and when he did he was pleasantly surprised and much more fully informed about Mani than he could have been from mere reports. The results of his Mani observations are written up in a vivid way in a book which was a Book Society choice when it was first published in England.

The book rambles along, telling the reader some of the most routine details but always letting him in to some important cultural, historical, religious, and aesthetic appreciation of the Greek region that he deals with. The book is a mine of impressions, observations, and facts about Mani and the Maniots and is a significant contribution to English language travel book literature.

The study Patrick Fermor gives of the Mani is a highly personal one, but it is also one that is documented by personal as well as historical data. Fermor wants to get an integrated picture of the whole of Greece and one of the aims of this book and books on Greece to follow "is to situate and describe present-day Greeks of the mountains and the island in relationship to their habitat and their history; to seek them out in those regions where bad communications and remoteness have left this ancient relationship, comparatively speaking, undisturbed".

In twenty well-packed chapters, Mr. Fermor has given the reader a vivid picture of a region that is replete with religious, mythological, and social survivals from the classic and Byzantine Greek past but a region, which though cut off from the mainstream of Greek contemporary life, though with a people essentially the same for thousands of years, is still affected by whatever else happens in the modern Greek world.

Author Fermor gives us a sympathetic account of the Maniots, much-needed insight into that rocky central prong of the Peloponnesus that is the southernmost point of Mediterranean Europe, and a genuine appreciation of the Greek people and their ancient as well as mediaeval background. This book will be fascinating reading to the uninitiated.

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Donald C. Swanson, *Modern Greek Studies in the West: A Critical Bibliography of Studies on Modern Greek Linguistics, Philology, and Folklore in Languages other than Greek*. New York: The New York Public Library, 1960. Pp. 93. \$ 2.75.

*Modern Greek Studies in the West* will fill a long overdue need in modern Greek bibliographical studies. As the title clearly indicates, the compiler has sought to provide a critical bibliography of all books and articles on modern Greek studies published by Western scholars. In addition to French, German, English, and Italian materials, this bibliography includes several articles and books written by Hungarian, Rumanian, and Slavic scholars. Notable for its absence is a bibliography of books and articles by Greek scholars in Greek. Admittedly, the Greek material would constitute over one half the total number of

bibliographical items. The autor bemoans the fact that this Greek bibliography could not have been included because "it is almost impossible to print Greek in this country" (p. 5). He has thus missed a magnificent opportunity to give us a *complete* modern Greek studies bibliography. Greek is still being printed in the U.S.A. though surely at high rates, but even if this were not financially feasible, what about the use of transliteration and/or translation of the Greek titles? Unfortunately, Professor Swanson ignores the rich treasures of modern Greek literature as if to assume that there is no modern Greek literature of consequence (a blatant fallacy) or that modern literature does not or should not form a legitimate part of modern Greek studies. This reviewer finds the omission of a critical bibliography pertaining to modern Greek literary studies puzzling.

Appropriately enough, this bibliographical compilation contains an introduction which covers in general the fields of linguistics, Vulgar Byzantine literature, modern popular literature (by this Swanson means folk drama, folk tales, folk songs, myths or traditions, proverbs and riddles), and modern Greek folklore. In his section on method Professor Swanson clearly indicates that his bibliography attempts to record systematically and accurately publications in languages other than Greek from about 1860 to the present. Books are first listed and then articles. These divisions are each subdivided into the four sub-headings covering Linguistics, Vulgar Byzantine texts, Popular Literature, and Folklore. There are further subdivisions within the sub-headings as these are appropriate to the subject, and the material within any given section is arranged chronologically.

Excluded from this bibliography are materials on other languages or cultures in modern Greece, materials on Greek influence on other cultures and languages, and travel books.

There can be no question but that Professor Swanson has rendered modern Greek studies (excluding recent modern Greek literature and the subjects indicated above) an invaluable service. His bibliography is judiciously, thoroughly, and meticulously done. His inclusion of references to reviews of all books (wherever possible) is a special feature which deserves noting and commendation.

For a highly workable, authoritative, and dependable bibliography of over 1000 items, the student of modern Greek will now find Swanson's bibliography an indispensable starting-point for modern Greek studies and an invaluable research tool for advanced Greek studies. *Modern Greek Studies in the West* is indeed another pioneering effort of Professor Swanson of the University of Minnesota, whose *Vocabulary of Modern Spoken Greek* (reviewed by this writer in *MLJ*\* XLIV, October 1960, pp. 285-286) continues to make a deep impression on modern Greek studies.

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\* *Modern Language Journal*.