

A. A. Pallis, editor, *The Cretan Drama. The Life and Memoirs of Prince George of Greece High Commissioner in Crete (1898-1906)*. New York: Robert Speller & Sons, 1960. Pp. xxvii, 432. Frontispiece, 16 plates. \$ 7.50.

This book, volume 14 in the "Makers of History Series," is a highly important book for the study of modern Greek history. Actually, it is much more than one book: it is three books since it contains *The Memoirs of Prince George of Greece*, translated from the Danish by Reginald Spink (pp. 3-230), selections from the *Life of Prince George of Greece High Commissioner in Crete (1898-1906)* by A.S. Skandamis, abridged and translated from the Greek by A.A. Pallis (pp. 232-351), and five appendices of original documents from the period under study (pp. 358-424), plus introductions and bibliographies.

This is the first time that the memoirs of H.R.H. Prince George have been made public and available to English readers and thus it gives many more historians the opportunity to examine the comments and views of the High Commissioner of Crete from 1898-1906. It becomes abundantly clear that Prince George, as a Greek prince and an appointee of the Protecting Powers (Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy), was always devoted to the policy of *enosis* (union) of Crete with mainland Greece through legitimate constitutional means; that the Great Powers were short-sighted in their refusal to recognize Cretan nationalist aspirations; and that Prince George succeeded in transforming Crete from a state of virtual anarchy to a state of law and order.

The most interesting portions of this book are those dealing with Eleutherios Venizelos, initially the Prince's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice, who is looked upon by the Prince as an opportunist and insurgent, especially in view of his famous revolt at Therissos, which prematurely resulted in the declaration of Cretan union with Greece (March 1905). The Prince condemns the actions of the man who was destined to become the controversial Premier of Greece many times. Some historians would justify Venizelos's actions against the Prince on the grounds that H.R.H. had an inclination toward absolute power.

No matter what view is taken, historians will now have to reappraise the early history of modern Crete and Greece in terms of the new material that has now been made available through this significant publication.

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Franz Thierfelder: *Männer am Balkan. Von Alexander dem Grossen bis Josip Tito*. Verlag Styria: Graz, Wien, Köln, 1961. 335 S., 28 Portr.

Der Verfasser will dem Leser bedeutende Persönlichkeiten der Geschichte des Balkanraumes in biographischen Abrissen vorstellen, um «Versäumtes wenigstens einigermaßen nachzuholen» und «schmerzhaft Wunden zu heilen und echte Grösse aufleuchten zu lassen», wie