

West in 1967. Petrovich has written an excellent summary statement of Yugoslav problems to the date of delivery. Grossman's paper is sober, technocratic, and altogether a masterful evaluation of the economic problems and prospects of the communist states of Eastern Europe. Horelick presented a synopsis of Russian political evolution since the October Revolution to an audience apparently more familiar with Russian than with communist affairs. Burks' assessment of the "transmutation of European communism" is imaginative, informative, and in good taste. Evidently the lectures satisfied the requirements of the sponsor and of the audience as well. The volume is also useful for students of international communism longing for periodic reviews of trends and changes in communist affairs.

The volume, however, also reveals the risks inherent to ventures of this kind. Even though the editor distinguishes between "forecasting" and "prediction" to the extent to which forecasting seeks "to prepare an estimate of future developments so that provision can be made for their likely consequences" the forecasting which provided the rationale for the lectures and resultant book is woefully inadequate. It would be difficult to blame the authors for having failed to realize the potential explosiveness of the Czechoslovak situation in 1967. However, the dynamics of Soviet and East European communist policies in 1967 were far more complex than the authors were prone to recognize. Generalizations and theories derived from applied Kremlinology have proven to be generally worthless either for forecasting or for predicting largely because they ignore the totality of the phenomenon. There are no easy cures for solving the methodological and research problems connected with the study of communism. Nevertheless, we would urge that all concerned with the study of international communism allow the facts to speak for themselves.

University of Colorado

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI

O. Lancaster, *Sailing to Byzantium*, London, John Murray, 1969. Pp. 184 with 8 colour plates and numerous drawings by the author.

The title of the book itself taken from W.B. Yeats' famous poem clearly suggests that this is not a scholarly manual but a guide for the educated English-speaking traveller who is not familiar with Byzantine

history, art and architecture. "Sailing to Byzantium" is the book of a non-specialist addressed to non-specialist readers, yet we must admit from the very beginning that it is written with good knowledge (in spite of some striking historical inaccuracies, e.g. on p. 50, where the author claims that Thessaloniki was occupied by the Bulgars, or some poor transliterations of Greek names that may be printing mistakes as well, e.g. on p. 98, where the little church of Kapnikarea in Athens becomes Kapnikaria, etc.) and with affection for the subject.

Lancaster tells us that when he was writing the book, that took him "twenty odd years" to prepare, he did not have in mind the specialist but the majority of the English-speaking travellers who come to Greece prepared for cultural distraction but who know practically nothing or very little about Byzantium. "It is for them and for the occasional sun-bather who at evening is moved to walk up to the little chapel on the hillside overlooking the beach, that this book is intended" (p. 1). If we try therefore to judge the book on a scholarly basis we fail to see its true character, but if we take into consideration what the writer's main focus and ambition were then we come to realize that he has enriched the old and rich English tradition of travel literature with an interesting book that deserves attention.

The author in writing his book followed the route that a Western traveller might have taken in the Middle Ages to visit the Byzantine world. After spending some time in Ravenna and Torcello he sets out from Venice and following the old Via Egnatia through Kastoria and Thessaloniki he arrives at Constantinople. On his way to the Byzantine capital he makes several excursions to Meteora or to Mt. Athos but also to Bulgaria to see the Byzantine churches there and keep a record of them. Just like any other traveller who does not have time or who cannot visit some other parts for certain reasons, Lancaster makes some notable omissions "the result either of lack of first-hand knowledge or of a personal opinion" (p. 2) about which he then feels obliged to apologize to his readers; he has left out for instance the Byzantine churches of Yugoslavia, Roumania and Asia Minor and under the misleading heading "Asia Minor" one finds only a description of the Byzantine churches on the island of Cyprus. Lancaster finally produced a guide to the Byzantine churches of Greece and the English speaking reader will undoubtedly enjoy it and profit from it.