

Vice-Admiral Baillie-Grohman was the British officer in charge of the rescue operation that was to try and save the survivors of some 58,000 British troops after a Greek campaign that lasted an all too short six weeks. Anthony Heckstall-Smith was in command of a prototype tank landing craft that was sunk from under him off the shores of the Peloponnesus. In this reconstruction every effort was made to procure information from the men who actually took part in the operation.

The whole gruesome operation is related by men who participated in this evacuation which took place under the most adverse circumstances. Without air coverage by the R.A.F., with the German Luftwaffe devastating the Piraeus mercilessly, with the rescue ships some 600 miles from their base, the whole business of the evacuation had to be conducted in darkness.

It is rather amazing to read the details of this book. The facts recorded leave the definite impression that there was a clear lack of coordination among the Allies themselves in the Mediterranean and North African theatres of operation and a rather hopeless feeling on the part of the higher echelons that anything worthwhile could be done for the Greeks. Prime Minister Churchill was the one who persistently felt that the Greeks should be helped at almost any cost. Lack of sufficient numbers of military personnel who knew any modern Greek is bemoaned by the authors as a needless source of confusion, lack of coordination, and losses. Better cooperation with the Greek authorities and the Greek people, who were so anxious to help and safeguard the British, could have been achieved for much more effective results.

Though *Greek Tragedy 1941* is not written in the best of literary styles, still it is important as a British record of what happened during the British evacuation of Greece, at least what happened to the British.

The British abbreviations used so frequently throughout the book should have been explained in a listing somewhere in the book for those not familiar with British naval and military terminology.

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Constantine Cavarnos, *Anchored in God: An Inside Account of Life, Art, and Thought on the Holy Mountain of Athos*. Athens: Astir Publishing Company, 1959. 230 pp. Illustrated.

Anchored in God was one of two books which resulted from two academic years which Dr. Cavarnos spent in Greece as Fulbright Research Professor at the University of Athens. The other in Greek, *The Universe and Man in American Philosophy*, was an attempt to give Greek readers some notion of the greatest American thinkers in philosophy. *Anchored in God* is actually the result of three trips to the Holy Mount of Athos undertaken by Cavarnos in 1952, 1954, and 1959.

The avowed purpose of Dr. Cavarnos's trips was to study Eastern

Orthodox monasticism in its most living and purest form and at the same time improve the author's knowledge and understanding of the traditional liturgic arts of Orthodoxy by getting to meet these arts first hand through direct contact with Byzantine architecture, art, and music.

Some of the questions that Dr. Cavarnos asked himself are as follows: "What precisely are the aims of Athonite monasticism, and what are the means that are employed by the monks for achieving them? What is the relationship of these ends and means to the teaching of Christ, St. Paul, and the Eastern Christian Church Fathers? How are the monasteries and smaller monastic establishments on the Holy Mountain organized? What is the nature and extent of private prayer and common worship? What besides these, constitutes the monks' daily round of activities? Is the ancient tradition of Eastern Orthodox mysticism known as hesychasm still alive on Athos? What books do the monks especially study and recommend? What are their views on monasticism, contemporary mankind, philosophy, solitude, hardship, fasting, prayer, etc? What is the exact nature of the architecture, painting, and music on Athos, and what part do these play in the life of the monk"?

These are a few of the questions that Dr. Cavarnos enumerates in his Preface, questions to which he sought vivid and authoritative answers through personal contact with monastic life and with the Athonite monks themselves.

Anchored in God is profusely illustrated by leading artists of Greece such as Fotis Kontoglou and Rallis Kopsidis, and every effort has been made to present Athonite monasticism in as vivid and lucid a manner as is humanly possible. The intimate form of the personal diary in which the book is written makes this book eminently readable by all persons, no matter what their previous preparation or background.

The some twenty monasteries of Mount Athos are described intimately but non-technically in thirty-five fascinating chapters which take the reader on a vicarious trip to the greatest center of Eastern Orthodox monasticism. A useful glossary and an index are included at the end of this book.

Anchored in God fulfills its purpose admirably and could well serve as an excellent guide to Mount Athos since each chapter could easily read as a separate, independent unit. Renewed interest in Mount Athos will certainly stimulate readers to peruse Dr. Cavarnos's contribution with interest and pleasure.

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Niove Kyparissiotis, editor, *The Modern Greek Collection in the Library of the University of Cincinnati: A Catalogue*. With a Foreword by Carl W. Blegen and an Introductory Note by Arthur T. Hamlin. Athens, Greece: The Hestia Press for The University of Cincinnati, 1960. Pp. xv, 387.