

The sheer documentation of this work must have been a considerable labor. It is a very useful fruit of wide research.

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E. Alexander - M. D. Ronnett, *Romanian Nationalism: The Legionary Movement*, Chicago, Loyola University Press, 1974, pp. xiii + 70.

Why a scholarly publisher, in this case Loyola University Press, issued this polemic is incomprehensible unless this press has been forced into vanity publishing. Whereas the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees a free press, America abounds with radical and reactionary publishers who churn out propaganda of the type represented by this effort to rehabilitate Romania's interwar Legionary Movement, more familiarly known as the «Iron Cross». Perhaps author Ronnett should have given his opus to the John Birch Society whose «Western Publishing Company» once printed the memoirs of Mihai Sturdza, an Iron Guardist who served in the fascist Antonescu regime and now resides in the sanctuary of the West. It is ironically curious that the Loyola press, operated by a Roman Catholic institution, should see fit to print this defense of an anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic gang! Perhaps this paperbound effort is designed to coincide with the case of Bishop Valerian Trifa of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate, who resides near Detroit, Michigan, now under investigation by U.S. authorities about his alleged participation in atrocities committed in Rumania prior to 1945.

Ronnett's qualifications to analyse the Iron Guard are limited to his membership. His references are limited exclusively to works of Guardists. He tries to convince unsuspecting readers of the noble ambitions of Corneliu Ion Codreanu, founder in 1927 of the Legion of the Archangel Michael, who is credited with recognizing the evils of atheistic communism long before Western statesmen did. Thus Ronnett feebly attempts to assign the Iron Guard an objective it never had, namely an anti-communist crusade in a Rumania of the 1930's when the communists there were ineffectual. Ronnett deliberately ignores the pogroms engineered by the Iron Guard and minimizes the anti-Semitic intellectual influences exerted upon the gang by Professor Cuza at the University of Iași (Jassy).

The author writes: «The Jews, in their immense majority, were hostile to the Romanian State causing Codreanu, in concert with all the student leaders, to demand the reduction of Jewish enrollments . . . in secondary schools and universities throughout the country» (p. 6). Conversely, Ronnett states that «true nationalism respects the right of other people to live» (p. 5). These two specimens typify the emotionally illogical theme of this little book which should be ignored only at the risk of burying the past. But the historic excesses from the Right, as well as from the Left, must never be ignored. This warning is clearly implicit in Ronnett's description of the Iron Guard's current activities in the West which are led by Codreanu's successor, Horia Sima. These doings allegedly alert the West to the sufferings of Rumanians under communist rule. But would the hapless Rumanians fare better under a restoration of Iron Guard rule which ravaged that nation during its very brief tenure? A kind word can even be said for Antonescu who finally terminated his alliance with the Guardists in January 1941.

When an American imprint about the Iron Guard and its associated organiza-

tions ignores the most respected account of that gang's activities, Henry L. Roberts's *Rumania: Political Problems of an Agrarian State* (Yale University Press, 1951), then it cannot be accepted as a reliable source. Nevertheless, it is an American virtue to refrain from censorship. There is plenty of room for polemics and for their rebuttals.

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Costas Asimakopoulos, *Anthology of Rumanian Poetry*, Athens, Arion, 1974, pp. 261.

Following his edition of «The Contemporary Poets of Yugoslavia», Costas Asimakopoulos attempts in this small volume to assemble the best of the Rumanian poets. The handsome edition is an anthology of seventy old and new poets of Rumania who are the most representative of their periods. Selections are taken from their finest poetic works.

Before presenting his anthology, the author attempts in an introduction to give in some thirty pages (7-38) a brief survey of the history of Rumania beginning with the ancient Greeks of «Lesser Scythia», the Roman period of Trajan (106 A.D.), the Byzantine of the 13th Century, followed by the Turkish period and the Phanariotes.

In the footnote on pp. 10-13 he gives a rather impoverished list of Greek men of letters who resided in Rumania beginning (perhaps mistakenly) with Laonikos Chalkocondyles. It should be pointed out that by Paisius Lazarides the author must surely mean Paisius Ligarides, and Dapontes was known as Caesarios and not Caesaris. In these pages (beginning especially with p. 9 ff.), Asimakopoulos emphasizes the Greek tradition in Rumanian thought, in art, and so on, and concludes with Demetrius Cantemir (1673-1723), the first to deal at any length with Rumanian folk poetry, and the «Stolnic» Constantine Cantacuzene. He then moves on to cite the place of Vas. Alecsandrescu (1821-1885), Cesar Boliac (1813-1881), and D. Bolintineanu (1819-1872), among others. He thus comes to M. Eminescu (1850-1889) the great bard of the country (pp. 25-28). After Eminescu there are mentioned in a few lines the Transylvanian G. Goşbuc (1866-1918), the forerunner of symbolism in Rumanian poetry, Al. Macedonski (1854-1920), the Byronist Duiliu Zamfirescu (1858-1922), A. Vlacută (1858-1918), the poet D. Anghel (1872-1914), who was much influenced by French symbolism, and the passionate Germanophile Stefan O. Josif (1875-1915) (pp. 28-31). It would have been preferable perhaps to have written the names of the poets referred to in the preface in their Rumanian spelling as are the names of those poets whose work is included in the anthology. Incidentally, verses of the poets mentioned above are not included in the anthology. At all events, I believe it would have been possible to have included excerpts from their poems by eliminating pieces from other poets. The very useful book by Asimakopoulos would thus have become even more representative of the entire spectrum of this country's poetry, and could have more accurately been described as an «Anthology of Rumanian Poetry».

In pp. 31-41 the author discusses «certain general phenomena in Rumanian» to point out the French, Italian and Greek influences on Rumanian cultures and the reasons for these influences. Pp. 41-258 are taken up by the actual anthology beginning with the poet Tudor Arghezi (1888-1967) and concluding with the work of Andrian Paunescu (b. 1943), one of the younger poets of his generation. The