

Book Reviews

Irwin T. Sanders, Walter C. Bisselle, Roger Whitaker, *East European Peasantries. Social Relations. An Annotated Bibliography of Periodical Articles*. Boston: G. K. Hall, Vol 1 (1976), vi, 179 p., Vol 2 (1981), ix, 200 p.

Alexandra Filippenko, compiler, *Guide to the Nikić Collection. Balkan Historical Sources*. Santa Barbara, California: University of California Library, 1980, 416 p.

Special bibliographical compilations have generally been helpful to researchers. This has been particularly true in the humanities and social sciences where indices and abstracting services have lacked the consistency and comprehensiveness maintained in the sciences where financial support has been greater. The two volumes by Sanders and his associates provide coverage of the rural sociological and anthropological (according to the authors, social relations including demographic, economic and cultural aspects) literature of the Balkan area with the exception of Albania and Turkey. While the title is «East European», the inclusion of Greece does broaden its coverage. The articles referred to in these volumes have been collected in bound volumes by countries and are available at the Boston University Library. The coverage is for the postwar period up to the mid-1970's.

Some of the articles are from commonly available English language journals such as *Balkan Studies* and the *Slavic Review*. However, many are from locally published periodicals in the language of the country concerned. For each entry there is a paragraph summary, while «The central interest is the social relations among rural peoples and between them and other segments of the society». In this age of on line computerized data bases a reasonable question would be whether an even more comprehensive bibliography could be mechanically produced from an already computerized abstracting service such as that of Sociological Abstracts or the Population Index or a combination of these or other sources. In these two volumes it is hard to discern a pattern of selectivity other than convenient access. Thus one of the most productive of American anthropologists whose primary specialty is Yugoslav rural society, Hammel, is represented by only one article in each volume. This is perhaps ten percent of his applicable bibliography. The Hungarian ethnologist, Tamas Hofer, is widely published in English but only a few of his Hungarian language articles are listed. In volume 2, Greece is allotted half the space assigned to Bulgaria. Both are important but the amount of accessible material in Western European languages is much greater for Greece. (A more satisfying coverage for Greece is found in Evangelos Vlachos, *Modern Greek Society: Continuity and Change, An Annotated Classification of Selected Sources*, Fort Collins, Colorado State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Special Monograph Series No. 1, 1969; and Peter S. Allen and Perry A. Bialor, «Bibliography of Anthropological Sources of Modern Greece and Cyprus», *Modern Greek Society, A Newsletter*, 4, 1975).

In some cases references are repeated in the Sanders volumes, as with two different summaries on page 142 of volume one and page 184 of volume two. Generally, the volumes are of some value and Sanders is a distinguished Balkan scholar but it is evident that the collaboration of a professional bibliographer for this project would have resulted in a more useful end product.

The Nikić Yugoslav collection at the University of California, Santa Barbara, raises questions about the rational use of library resources in Balkan Studies in the United States, especially at the University of California. This collection of some 15,000 items is represented by 6,229 titles which include books, periodicals, and pamphlets. The materials are mainly in Serbo-Croatian and to a lesser extent in Bulgarian, Russian and West European languages. This collection was purchased in 1971-72 from Dr. Fedor Nikić, a retired professor of international law at the University of Belgrade. It is described in Paul Horecky's compilation, *East Central and Southeast Europe, A Handbook of Library and Archival Resources in North America* (Santa Barbara, Clio Press, 1976, pp. 35-38).

A close look at the Nikić Collection Guide reveals both strengths and weaknesses. There are rich resources for the study of 19th and 20th century Yugoslav (especially Serbian) history in periodicals, pamphlets, almanacs and monographs. These include works by major scholars. Some of the items seem to be of negligible use as in random and incomplete runs of government documents for the interwar period dealing with the budgets of various government ministries. There are also translations in French and Serbo-Croatian of easily accessible English language materials as in the writings of Woodrow Wilson, as well as popular English language trade books. There are also many reprints of articles from standard Yugoslav journals. These are listed separately; some of them are only a few pages. This bibliography is thus considerably less than its 416 pages of listings would indicate. Absolutely no weeding out appears to have been done. The participation of an experienced research librarian would have been extremely useful in the process of putting together a catalog that would bear scholarly evaluation.

It should also be mentioned that in the adjoining pages of the Horecky volume the University of California collections on Yugoslavia at Berkeley of 31,000 volumes and at the Los Angeles campus of 40,500 are analyzed. If these articles are read with care it is evident that there is enormous duplication. The Nikić Collection guide and the Horecky compilation as well as the project organized by Sanders are testimony to the absence of any plan for coordinated utilization of funds as well as the ad hoc nature of the projects reviewed here. These publications reflect the whims of individual scholars and it is difficult to believe that they received the serious attention of the eminent scholars involved.

In making such a statement this reviewer acknowledges his role in acquiring the U.C.L.A. collection in 1961-62. It was fun doing the collecting in Yugoslavia and there is much of scholarly value that resulted but the librarians at the University of California never did their homework or, perhaps, they were never even consulted in the case of the Nikić project. If they were asked it is hard to see why the addition of the Nikić Collection was necessary. But then, if Berkeley and U.C.L.A. had been consulted, the collection at the latter campus might not have been acquired either. The Americans are, however, not alone in this lack of rationality. In many European universities each faculty or research institute seems to have its own collection of materials. While it is not reasonable to assume that these structural

problems associated with library organization will soon be overcome in these times of financial stringencies we can still hope that badly needed professional and evaluative bibliographies for the Balkan field may be forthcoming.

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D. Samsaris, *‘Ο ἐξελληνισμός τῆς Θράκης κατὰ τὴν Ἑλληνικὴ καὶ Ρωμαϊκὴ ἀρχαιότητα* (The Hellenization of Thrace in Greek and Roman Antiquity), Thessaloniki 1980, pp. 405.

The Thracians were one of the most numerous peoples of ancient times, together with the Scythians and the Indians. It is understandable, therefore, that their Hellenisation (as far as it went) should be of considerable significance for the Thracian studies, for Greek history, and for our knowledge of antiquity in general. Mr D. Samsaris—well-known in the scholarly world for his historico-geographical research—was acutely aware of the lack of any studies in this field, and has now produced the weighty volume which is the subject of the present review and evaluation.

Mr Samsaris traces the various stages of the Thracians' Hellenization over a period of some thousand years. His contribution is an important one; in order to evaluate it properly I shall give a brief account of the work itself and then pay special attention to those aspects which are of particular value to historical research.

The introduction (pp. 17–53) concerns the Thracians generally and their language: the borders of Thrace are determined, there is a brief review of the country from the seventh century BC to the fourth century AD, and particular attention is paid to the battles the Greeks waged against the indigenous population in order to settle in Thrace.

The main body of the work is divided into two parts. The first (pp. 55–174) examines the chief factors and the actual process of Hellenization from the earliest establishment of Greek colonies up to the end of Roman antiquity. It comprises eight chapters.

The first chapter (pp. 57–75) deals with Greek colonisation and the Greeks' penetration into Thrace, emphasising the fact that the mixed nature of the colonies favoured the process of Hellenization, for they were agricultural and commercial or military and agricultural settlements.

The second chapter (pp. 76–88) examines the road network in Thrace, emphasising the fact that the Thracian seaboard favoured maritime communication, while the mountain crossings of Rhodope and the Balkan Peninsula facilitated the development of a dense network of continental roads constructed by the Odryseans, the Macedonians, and the Romans.

The third chapter (pp. 89–91) concerns the urbanisation of Thrace, which began in the coastal zone with Greek colonisation, was extended into the hinterland by the Macedonians, and became general with the Romans, who strengthened or established Greek urban centres.