

## Book Reviews

*The Pen and the Sword: Studies in Bulgarian History* by James F. Clarke, edited by Dennis P. Hupchick, East European Monographs, No CCLII, Columbia University Press (New York, 1988), pp. xxii + 537.

James F. Clarke (1906-82) was a distinguished American scholar and a specialist in modern Bulgarian history. His father was an American missionary who had dedicated himself to proselytising the Bulgarian population of Monastir (Bitola), where Clarke was born and found himself involved from an early age with the study of the Bulgarian world. In 1937 he gained his Ph. D. from Harvard for his thesis on *Bible Societies, American Missionaries, and the National Revival of Bulgaria*. A major work, it remained virtually unknown until 1971, when it was published in New York by Arno Press and the New York Times in the form of a photocopy reproduction of a wretchedly typed manuscript of the author's. Albeit in this way, it was the only time Clarke ever published an extensive book, for he only produced a number of important, but short, articles thereafter, almost all of which had to do with the Bulgarian Renaissance and its connections with the American world. It was not easy for the interested reader to get hold of these articles, for they were scattered about in a variety of frequently unavailable periodicals. Consequently, after the death of this outstanding and truly memorable scholar, his devoted student and friend, Dennis P. Hupchick, decided to collect Clarke's manuscripts and publish them under the ingenious title *The Pen and the Sword*, thus doing the interested scholar a most valuable service.

The articles are grouped into four broad sections. The first, titled 'General Studies: By Way of Introduction', concerns general linguistic and educational subjects and serves, as the title implies, as an introductory chapter. It is followed by 'Historiography and Historical Sources', a section which examines such themes as the English histories of Bulgaria and the value of the biblical and missionary societies' archives for Bulgarian history. Two articles are devoted to Paisi Hilendarski, though they are merely factual and make no substantial contribution to what is already known about him. This section also includes a few brief notes in more or less the same vein. Particularly interesting is the article titled 'Macedonia from SS Cyril and Methodius to Horace Lunt and Blaže Koneski: Language and Nationality'. Imagine, if you will, a man such as Clarke, who had witnessed his own father spreading Protestant propaganda amongst the Bulgarians of Yugoslav Macedonia, learning suddenly that these were no Bulgarians, but members of another nationality; and a Harvard professor, no less, undertaking to write down the grammar of their new language. Clarke was understandably bewildered. It is not without a touch of irony towards that eminent Harvard Slavist, his enthusiasm for the newly fabricated 'Macedonian' language, and his eagerness to write its grammar that Clarke observes: '[Lunt] prematurely declared at the time he compiled his Grammar that Macedonian "had achieved a degree of homogeneity comparable to

that of the other Balkan languages" — this in the space of six precocious years!' Clarke concludes that the whole issue of the so-called Macedonian language ignores history, which, he is convinced, lies at the root of the language problem. He goes on (p. 167): 'The type of historic gymnastics and dialectal Macedonianism indulged in at Skopje puts the ideological cart before the historical horse: suddenly we had ultra-Macedonian nationalism, a gift from Marx; then came the establishment of a "state", then the official language with its supportive "history". And finally, what? A Macedonian consciousness?' In the end, history has proved him right.

The third section, under the title 'The Bulgarian National Revival', is in two parts. The first (pp. 171-230) examines the so-called Bulgarian Renaissance and the development of modern Bulgarian literature, both in its own right and in relation to the Serbian intellectual movement. The second exclusively concerns the Bulgarian translation of the Bible (pp. 233-302), a subject on which Clarke was truly a specialist. Amongst other things, he also examines the old canard that, in the early decades of the nineteenth century, the Greek Metropolitan of Tirnovo, Hilarion, destroyed Patriarch Euthymius's mediaeval Bulgarian library. He conducts a detailed analysis of all the available data, and adds further arguments of his own to refute this myth, just as J. Trifonov did before him in 1906. Clarke particularly emphasises Hilarion's progressive ideas and his friendly attitude towards the Bulgarians, as also that eminent prelate's relations with Aprilov, Neofit Rilski, and the Bulgarian school at Gabrovo. His conclusion is that, 'although in Bulgaria, as in Romania, there were harmful, anti-national effects from the Phanariote regime, there can be no question that Greek influence was also beneficial' (p. 280). I take this opportunity to point out that in 1966 Clarke and the present reviewer began a joint book on Hilarion, which, however, owing to other commitments, was never completed.

The fourth, and last, section of the book concerns a subject to which Clarke himself made a substantial contribution. The general title is 'Americans and Bulgarians', and the articles mainly concern relations between Americans and the Bulgarian world, the dissemination of knowledge about Bulgaria in America, the American discovery of 'Bulgarians in Macedonia' (pp. 365-72), American publications and reports on Bulgaria (some of which owe much to the author's father, the Rev. J. F. Clarke), and American surveillance of Bulgarian affairs during the Russo-Turkish War. This lengthy section makes extensive use of American archives to which Clarke had access, as also of his father's private archive. The editor has enriched the book with an extensive bibliography (pp. 491-528) of the books and articles mentioned, and also with a number of rare photographs. It does, however, lack a detailed index of names and things, which would make it easier to use.

Clarke was a man who made his presence felt in the profession. A vivacious and lively man, he was prompt to attend scientific conferences, and through his own endeavours and researches did his best to increase his knowledge on the one subject which fascinated him, the Bulgarian Renaissance and its connection with the American world. He thus became virtually the only expert in this particular field. His writings were not always terribly original, but he expressed himself with a clarity, self-confidence, and mental agility which invariably aroused his readers' interest and made him a pleasure to read. Our grateful thanks are due to Dennis Hupchick, who so lovingly collected these articles and, with the help of many others, managed to publish them and thus pay his ultimate tribute to his mentor and friend. Clarke's articles well deserved to be gathered into this unique file on such a specialised, yet ever topical, theme.

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