

as a reference work for those seeking unusual topics for conversation, for students anxious to include East European materials in term papers, and for bus, subway or train riders with special interest in international affairs.

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Konstantin Kristoforidhi, *Fjalor shqip-greqisht, Λεξικὸν ἀλβανο-ελληνικόν*, [Albanian-Greek Dictionary] Prague, 1961. Pp. 397.

The Albanian-Greek dictionary by K. Kristoforidhi (1827-1895), has been a landmark in Albanian lexicography since its publication in Athens in 1904 by the Greek government. Before it appeared, there was no comprehensive and scholarly dictionary of the Albanian language, and even today, when we possess the work of such scholars as G. Weigand, A. Leotti and S.E. Mann, Kristoforidhi's work retains its value, especially for the use of dialectical elements.

The author, a native of Elbasan, had taught Albanian to J.G. von Hahn and helped him compile an Albanian vocabulary, which subsequently appeared with a German translation in Hahn's *Albanesische Studien* (Jena, 1854). Kristoforidhi was inspired by von Hahn to devote himself to the systematic study of his native language, about which he wrote several works, including a grammar and the above-mentioned dictionary. Equipped with a wide and thorough knowledge of Albanian and its dialects, Kristoforidhi spent some years of assiduous research in compiling a comprehensive Albanian-Greek dictionary, which is still the best of its kind. It comprises 11,675 words and is distinguished by a great number of dialectical references and by highly accurate phonetic transcription of the Albanian words, which were originally written in a modified Greek alphabet.

The editor of the new edition, the Albanian philologist Aleksander Xhuvani, has transliterated all the entries of the dictionary into the standard Albanian alphabet and has arranged them in the new alphabetical order. Furthermore, he has corrected the typographical errors of the original edition, identified grammatically all the words and provided explanatory remarks when necessary. These modifications and additions are explained in the introduction, which also gives the history of Kristoforidhi's dictionary and emphasizes its value.

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