

recount the story of the siege itself. The heroic defense, which commands our full admiration, especially since the fall of the city seemed inevitable, is described here stage by stage in detail and with a vividness and dramatic power, reminiscent of Gibbon's stirring account. The last three chapters discuss the repercussions of the fall of Constantinople for the conquering Turks, the vanquished Byzantines, the rising Orthodox Muscovites and the shocked Western Christians. Two appendices are included, one surveying the principal historical sources, and the other the fate of the city's churches under the Ottomans. A number of plates and plans and a map adorn the volume.

All in all this is a successful book, based on thorough knowledge and scrupulous use of Greek, Slavic, Western, and Oriental sources. One might add to Sir Steven's impressive list the collection of Armenian sources on the fall of Constantinople edited with a Russian translation by A.S. Anasjan, *Armjanskie istočniki o padenii Vizantii* (Erivan, 1957). In addition to the poem of Abraham of Ancyra, this work also contains the text of the poems by Arakel of Bageš and Jeremias Čelebi Keomurdžjan.

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Kosmas Thesprotos and Athanasius Psalidas, *Γεωγραφία Ἀλβανίας καὶ Ἠπειρώς* [Geography of Albania and Epirus], edited with an introduction and commentary by A.C. Papacharisis. Ioannina, Editions of the Society of Epirotan Studies, 1964. Pp. XXXI + 125; 8 maps.

The Society of Epirotan Studies at Ioannina has displayed in recent years noteworthy activity. Among other scholarly projects the Society has undertaken the publication of a series of volumes dealing with various aspects of the rich historical and cultural traditions of Epirus. Thus, under the general editorship of Dr. L. Vranousis, Director of the Mediaeval Archives of the Academy of Athens, a number of handsomely printed volumes in Greek have appeared so far, including *The Population of Ancient Epirus* (1962) by the late Professor D. Evangelidis, *The Literary Figures of the Despotate of Epirus* (1960) by Professor N. B. Tomadakis, *The "Κομισκόγρης ὁ ἐξ Ἀρβάνων" in the Alexiad of Anna Comnena* (1962) by Dr. Era L. Vranousis, *The Chronicles of Epirus from the Mediaeval and Ottoman Eras* (1962) by Dr. L. Vranousis, and *The Learned Tradition in Epirus* (1960) by the well-known literary historian Dr. C. Th. Dimaras, who has also edited in the same series *The Collection of*

*Biographies of Learned Greeks from the Ottoman Era* (1960) by the Epirote historian P. Aravantinos, *The Chronicle of the Tocco Family; Ioannina in the Beginning of the Fifteenth Century* (1965) by Professor G. Schirò, and *Walks in Ioannina; Historical and Folkloristic Notes* (1965) by Mr. D. S. Salamangas, the authority on the history of Ioannina.

The recent addition to this impressive list of publications is the *Geography of Albania and Epirus* by Kosmas Thesprotos and Athanasius Psalidas, published with an introduction and commentary by Mr. A. C. Papacharisis after the original manuscript which is in his possession. Kosmas Thesprotos (c. 1780-1852) was born in Epirus and had studied at the famous school of Athanasius Psalidas (1767-1829) in Ioannina, where he attended his course in the geography of Epirus and Albania. To the notes he had diligently kept from Psalidas' course he added later in the 1830's, when he was teaching in various places in Epirus and thereafter in Karpenisi in liberated Greece, his own supplementary remarks and prefaced them with a detailed treatise of his own on the geography of Albania. Both, Thesprotos' contribution and his notes from Psalidas' course are a valuable source for the history and historical geography of Albania and Epirus, since they are based on personal acquaintance with the land and its peoples. Besides a description of physical geography of Albania and Epirus, there is much information concerning the natural resources, economic life and commerce, political and ecclesiastical administration of the area, and ethnology, customs and habits of its inhabitants. Thesprotos is something of an antiquarian in paying attention to ancient sites and recording two Greek and a Latin inscriptions he had seen during his travels in Epirus. He is also a cartographer. He adorned his manuscript with a general map of Albania and another of Epirus, as well as with other six smaller of special regions. All these maps are reproduced here in their original colors.

Mr. Papacharisis should be congratulated for making available this valuable work and for supplying it with the necessary introduction and commentary.

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Giuseppe Schirò, *Τὸ Χρονικὸν τῶν Τόκκων. Τὰ Ἰωάννινα κατὰ τὰς ἀρχὰς τοῦ ΙΕ' αἰῶνος* [The Chronicle of the Tocco Family; Ioannina at the Beginning of the Fifteenth Century]. Ioannina, Editions of the Society of Epirotan Studies, 1965. Pp. 42, 1 facs.

In recent years the history of Epirus in the fifteenth century has