

*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

been considerably illuminated by the discoveries of Mr. C. Mertzios and Professor G. Schirò. Mr. Mertzios has published from the Venetian Archives four letters of the Despote of Ioannina Charles I Tocco and his son and successor Charles II, addressed to the Doge and written in 1425, 1427, 1428 and 1432 respectively. Professor Schirò had the good fortune to find in the Vatican Library an important unpublished chronicle of the fifteenth century, written in Ioannina in political verse and in demotic Greek. It contains an account of the events which led to the establishment of the rule of the Tocco family, the rulers of the islands of Cephalonia and Leucas, in Epirus in 1418, their wars with the Albanians and the history of the Tocco rule in Epirus in general to about 1425.

In the last eight years Professor Schirò has discussed in a number of papers the contents of this newly discovered Chronicle and indicated its great value as an historical source, inspite of the fact that it tends to be biased in favor of the Tocco family. In the present booklet the author reviews the contents of the Chronicle and summarizes the results of his previous research concerning problems of its authorship, dating and veracity. He also publishes for the first time in an appendix the parts of the text which refer directly to the history of Ioannina. Professor Schirò has promised to publish soon the entire text in a critical edition, accompanied by an Italian translation and commentary — an undertaking which will be fully appreciated by every student of the poorly documented history of mediaeval Epirus.

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Leslie Finer, *Passport to Greece, an Informative Guide to Enjoying the Country, illustrated by Spiros Vassiliou*; Longmans, 1964. Pp. 259.

The author of this attractive book (in his own words "just a free-hand pencil sketch") is a press reporter with a Greek wife. He has lived in Greece for eight years, has travelled about it extensively, and has learned the language. His love for Greece, he declares, "is genuine, but not indiscriminate." His purpose in writing this *Passport* is to supply "the factual information of a guide" without forgetting "the personal touch": and this he has fully achieved.

His twelve chapters neatly fall under the two headings "Key Patterns" and "Key Decisions." The range is wide — motels and bouzouki, modern newspapers and advice on bathing, interpretation of dreams and visiting Mount Athos. The titles indeed smack of newspaper headlines: "A Comforting Chronicle of Continuity," "Not Quite All Greek,"