

page-proof of the manuscript. One cannot fail to admire M.s' thoroughness. The wealth of coinage discussed in the book may be inferred from Index I (Coin Finds from the Balkans South of the Rivers Danube and Drava), which contains a total of 607 entries. There is also a general index.¹

All in all, an important book and one which will be a necessary companion to investigators of the mediaeval coinage of the Balkans. M. has not only given a much-needed survey of the numismatic and monetary history, but through his detailed analysis especially of the Greek evidence put forth interpretations which cannot be ignored and which at the very least provide guide-lines for future research.

State University of New York
at Buffalo

GEORGE L. KUSTAS

Leo Gerald Byrne, *The Great Ambassador*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1964. Pp. 383.

The career of Stratford Canning, Britain's "Great Ambassador" at Constantinople, has long merited additional study. Stanley Lane-Poole's two volumes, (1888) have been the point of departure for virtually all later considerations of Canning and are basic to the book here under review. Unfortunately, Mr. Byrne has not followed the fascinating career of his subject through archival repositories in England or on the Continent, where extensive materials exist, but instead has consulted a modest number of published works.

Mr. Byrne apparently believed that more thorough and basic research was not necessary. The preface is emphatic on the point that the author is writing "primarily for the intelligent layman" and he has commendably "tried to avoid...the obscurantism and picayune concerns one sometimes finds in the professional monograph." Since for his subject "many of the intellectual nutrients are stored in warehouses not readily accessible to the layman," he has examined these "nutrients" and "tried to present a fare chosen from among the fruits of recognized scholarship." He presents his findings in 27 short chapters (with preface and epilogue),

1. Unfortunately, the text suffers from many typographical errors. "Aquisitions" and "Genose" are repeated offenders. More serious, for being more in evidence, is the habit of word-division whereby two letters, either initial or final, are considered sufficient for hyphenation in passing from one line to the next, regardless of the laws of English syllabification. A later edition should eliminate such monstrosities by compressing the word into one or the other line of the text.

supported by 231 footnotes. The bibliography contains 33 items, including Cecil Woodham Smith's *The Reason Why* and Winston Churchill's *A History of the English Speaking Peoples*.

Besides relying heavily on Lane-Poole, Mr. Byrne also finds fairly extensive support for his narrative in H.W.V. Temperley's *England and the Near East: The Crimea* and A.W. Kinglake's *The Invasion of the Crimea*. The bibliography tempts one to wonder what sort of places the author was referring to as "warehouses not readily accessible to the layman." Many libraries would contain virtually all of his bibliography and other pertinent materials besides. Mr. Byrne has not really been interested in pursuing his subject very deeply or he would have encountered a considerable body of material, especially in article form. Though some of this might touch on "obscurantism and picayune concerns," it should not be summarily dismissed. Indeed, perhaps it cries out for an intelligent interpreter, such as Mr. Byrne, for instance. By casting his net so casually, and possibly also by viewing Canning with a completely uncritical eye, Byrne overlooks a number of vital questions. There is no regard for Canning's tempestuous relationship with other ambassadors at Constantinople, as Professor Lynn Case of the University of Pennsylvania has recently pointed out. (*Journal of Modern History*, XXXVII, no. 3, Sept., 1965. Pp. 386-388). A striking example of a judgment based on inadequate and insufficient materials, is the author's ready acceptance (p. 244) of Kinglake's view of Napoleon III's motives in the period prior to the Crimean War.

The most charitable judgment of this book, from a professional point of view, is to say that Byrne has presented a picture of Canning for the most part drawn uncritically from a relatively few secondary materials. He has produced an interesting and pleasing story that might indeed satisfy a general reader. The serious historian, however, could not accept this work as a meaningful contribution to historical literature. In fact, it is difficult to understand why a university press should publish such a work.

University of Oklahoma

BRISON D. GOOCH

John A. DeNovo, *American Interests and Policies in the Middle East, 1900-1939*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press, 1963. Pp. XII + 447.

The purpose of Professor DeNovo's study of American relations with the Middle East is to provide "a description and assessment of