

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Diamond Jenness, *The Economics of Cyprus: A Survey to 1914*. Montreal: McGill University Press, 1962. Pp. 219.

A.J. Meyer with Simos Vassiliou, *The Economy of Cyprus*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962. Pp. 94.

Slightly over a decade ago, Cyprus was unknown to the majority of the Western world, especially in the Western Hemisphere. This eastern Mediterranean island interested chiefly Orientalists, travellers to the Levant and a few Western government officials stationed in the Middle East. This, despite the fact that since 1878 Cyprus had been first a British possession and then a colony. Then came the Cypriot struggle for independence from British colonialism and the resulting establishment of what one might call the world's most unusual republic, or as some have indeed called it, a "reluctant republic." The revolt which led to the establishment of the Cyprus Republic as well as the latter's unsettled existence since 1959 contributed substantially to the deterioration of the NATO alliance by weakening the relations between Greece and Turkey, on its southern flank. Cyprus thus became a major concern of the Western world and a number of journalistic accounts (most of them ephemeral) have discussed its domestic and international problems.

Needless to say, the Cyprus question still remains active and will continue to be so until the disputing parties (the Cypriot government headed by Archbishop Makarios, Greece, Turkey, and Great Britain, not to mention the United States and the Soviet Union) reach an agreeable solution. Nevertheless Cyprus has achieved independence and this, regardless of its political future, has raised the question of its economic "viability," a question common to all emerging nations. The volumes under review are therefore a welcome addition to Cypriana.

Diamond Jenness' *The Economics of Cyprus* is, as the subtitle suggests, a survey of the subject from ancient times to 1914. It is an eminently successful and readable account, which could come only from the pen of a person intensely familiar with classical studies. As the author points out in the introduction, "I have revived in this book an interest of my younger days, when a classical education and a fertile imagination cast a mysterious radiance on the ancient Greek world..." But then he claims

that by the time he started writing the present monograph he felt "too world-worn to recapture the youthful vision." Fortunately, neither youthful excitement nor erudition are absent from this work. What could very easily be a dull, uninspiring record, in Jenness' hands becomes an informative and enjoyable narrative, depicting the Cypriot people carving an existence from their island. The following quotation is an example of the style and feeling which permeate this volume:

Nevertheless, while Italian merchants in Famagusta were tallying their wares and counting their sequins; while the French king and his nobles were jousting and banqueting in Nicosia, or with falcons, tame cheetahs, and a long supply train of camels, were riding out to the mountains to hunt hares and wild sheep; on numberless large estates and tiny holdings throughout the island thousands of serfs and freemen were toiling in unwonted peace and tranquillity to raise food for themselves and their overlords, and commercial crops that the latter could sell overseas.

The work suffers from an unavoidable imbalance caused largely by the availability or scarcity of sources. Thus out of 192 pages of text, only 53 are devoted to the economic history of Cyprus from the neolithic period (ca. 3700-2500 B.C.) through the Venetian rule of the island to 1571 while the Ottoman period (1571-1878) receives the following 64 pages. The last two chapters are the longest even though they deal with a relatively brief period of British rule (1878 to 1914).

Still, with remarkable patience, the author has traced the fluctuations of the island's economy, and has shown the effects of its geography, its geology, the agricultural blunders of its inhabitants and the idiosyncracies of the particular power in control at a given time. For it was the destiny of Cyprus repeatedly to become a victim and thus to share the political, cultural and economic experiences of the great empires which have dominated the eastern Mediterranean since ancient times. Indeed, from the second century before Christ, when ships from Engomi carried Cypriot copper overseas and returned with ivory gems from Egypt and pottery from the Aegean, Cyprus remained "a crossroad in the trade of the civilized world."

The volume is highly objective. The author both praises the accomplishment and deprecates the abuses of the various powers that ruled Cyprus. Consequently, even though the Turkish occupation ended feudalism and inaugurated the modern era (effecting, as it were, a social revolution), on the whole the Greek-Cypriot farmer's lot "was worse under the Turks than it had been under the Lusignan and the Ve-

netian, except that now all of them were freemen." The coming of the British began the regeneration of Cyprus and Jenness traces convincingly their many contributions from the day of their arrival when they found Nicosia "dirtier than any den in Constantinople," to the outbreak of World War I, when the Cypriots could enjoy the benefits of democratic institutions and a "civilized existence." On the other hand, he exposes the major flaws of the British administration, which partially accounts for the fact that even though the British government won the "economic struggle" and made Cyprus the most prosperous island in the Mediterranean, "She failed to reconcile and win the inhabitants' minds."

The author ended his account in 1914 partly because he felt that by then Britain had established the pattern for the future economic growth of Cyprus and partly because he wanted to avoid explosive and unsettled issues such as *enosis*, the NATO bases, the trade unions movement, etc. Still, and this attests to the usefulness of the book, the roots of certain basic present-day political and economic problems are touched upon. Two examples will suffice. The Ottoman administration's decision to acknowledge the Archbishop of Cyprus as the official representative of the Christians and to expect to Orthodox ecclesiastical machinery to collect the tribute from the Orthodox population had far-reaching consequences. In addition to its increased political role, the church gradually acquired great land property; thus, the Kykko Monastery possessed many farms throughout Cyprus and even beyond Cyprus. Indeed, one cannot help but wonder what would have been the fate of the anti-British struggle during 1955-1959 had Kykko's been unable to finance the greater part of the struggle. Another example was the prosperity which Limassol enjoyed during the two years following the British occupation, a prosperity which was augmented by "the stream of money that flowed from the British garrison camped in the neighborhood." In fact the influx of foreign troops on Cypriot soil has often, since then, been a substantial source of income for the natives. Presently, the British bases in Cyprus, despite their political implications, are so significant for the island's economy that the possibility of their sudden removal is viewed with alarm by many Cypriots.

Besides spending considerable time in Cyprus, the author obviously utilized extensive government documents, the accounts of European travellers in the Levant and a variety of monographs. Yet this reviewer was disappointed by the glaring absence from the bibliography of Demetris Christodoulou's, *The Evolution of the Rural Land Pattern in Cy-*

prus (1959), which, although it deals with a later period, nevertheless sheds considerable light on the period up to 1914.

The Economy of Cyprus by Professor Meyer and Simos Vassiliou is briefer than Jenness' work both in scope and size. Agreeing with Jenness' general conclusion that Britain left Cyprus a commendable legacy of good roads, high level literacy etc., the authors discuss with precision and clarity the expansion of the Cypriot economy from 1943 to 1960, its major problems and its future.

On the whole, this monograph succeeds in its purpose of giving an over-all picture of the various sectors of the island's economy. In addition, it provides sufficient insight into Cypriot history and society to enable the reader to put the whole discussion in some sort of historical perspective. What is disturbing, however, is the authors' conclusion, based chiefly on intuitive optimism. Having first itemized the various handicaps of the Cyprus economy, such as "the excessive reliance of Cyprus on international disaster and tension as a motive force for economic growth," excessive dependence on its minerals, uneven distribution of income, the pattern of investment in Cyprus which discourages long-range employment and economic growth, over-fragmentation of the land, water shortage, etc., they make a rather unconvincing attempt to prophesy a bright economic future based on a successful combination of foreign and domestic factors. In other words, the Cypriot government, the Orthodox Church and the Cypriots as a whole must make tremendous improvements in their agriculture and industry and simultaneously attract foreign investments. This economic leap presupposes a psychological disposition and attitude not indigenous to Cypriots, despite their relatively high living standards.

Hopefully, Cyprus will continue to experience economic growth, especially if it capitalizes on its location, climate, etc. But the latter are precarious factors, as is the tourism which these factors generate. Indeed, the general impression created by this book is that Cyprus's economic growth will be eternally dependent on outside forces. These outside forces, however, are unreliable, especially since the uncertainty of Cyprus' political future discourages foreign investments.

Of course the book appeared in 1962, and at that time the authors wisely warned that "to concentrate on purely military matters would seem the essence of waste and folly." Unfortunately, Cyprus has been concentrating on military matters ever since and it appears that it will continue to do so. Thus the optimistic and humoristic comments that Cyprus cannot go wrong because it has given the world the two com-

modities of love and copper, has established a theocratic state in the midst of twentieth-century secularism and has finally inspired some of Lawrence Durrell's writings, do not comfort those who are appalled by the artificial economic boom which is continuing unconnected with long-range economic planning. But then the authors partly disarmed criticism by pointing out that "much work and much compromise lie ahead."

Both volumes under review are informative, useful and readable. One hopes that a third volume of equal quality will soon appear to cover the period from 1914 to 1943 and thus fill the gap separating the present studies.

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Dikaïos V. Vayacacos, *Σχεδιάσμα περὶ τῶν τοπωνυμικῶν καὶ ἀνθρωπολογικῶν σπονδῶν ἐν Ἑλλάδι, 1833-1967. Essai sur les études toponymiques et anthroponymique en Grèce 1833-1962*. Athens: Athena, 1964. Vol. 66 (1962) pp. 300-424 and Vol. 67 (1963-1964) pp. 145-369. & Pp. xiv.

The Editor of the Historical Dictionary of the Academy of Athens has conveniently gathered for scholars within the covers of one volume two substantial bibliographical surveys of names and place names in Greece. The book under consideration is thus a reprint without change and with the original page numbering of the author's articles as they appeared in the journal *Athena* in 1962 and 1963-64. In this present printing a brief preface precedes the main work, indicating clearly that there has been no such comprehensive bibliography published since that of A. Meliarakes's *Νεοελληνική Γεωγραφική Φιλολογία* (published in Athens in 1889 and covering the period 1800-1889) and pointing out that considerable progress in research had been made since that date and, one may add, renewed and vigorous interest in the subject.

It is obvious that no bibliography can ever hope to be complete or even up-to-date for long but many do become basic for the study of particular fields of knowledge. Dr. Vayacacos's work is admittedly not the last word by any means but it does and will provide the scholar with an excellent comprehensive bibliography upon which all others on the topic must now be based. It might also be noted that the bibliographies under review are fully annotated and preceded by a great deal of explanatory material, including brief historical sketches of the subject of names in Greece as well as of the scholarly personalities who were