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No 97

STILPON P. KYRIAKIDES

TWO STUDIES ON MODERN GREEK FOLKLORE

TRANSLATED

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- 1. MODERN GREEK FOLKLORE: FOLK POETRY, FOLK RE-LIGION, FOLK ART, originally published in 1936, is an address which Professor Kyriakides delivered in Munich, Berlin, and Dresden. In this brief survey, Professor Kyriakides provides a representative sampling of the various types of Modern Greek folk poetry, describes in considerable detail the ancient folk beliefs and customs which persist among the populace, and comments briefly on the need to collect and study folk art. Numerous comparisons are made with German folk culture, and several problems for comparative research are enumerated. Included are illustrations of Modern Greek folk art and objects utilized during the celebration of the Twelve Days.
- 2. THE LANGUAGE AND FOLK CULTURE OF MODERN GREECE, first published in 1946, is a short history of the development and continuity of language, custom, and belief. A survey of Modern Greek dialects early in the study sheds considerable light on the historical background of the Greek diglossia; and innumerable comparisons made by Professor Kyriakides between ancient and modern Greek folk cultures provide a firm scholarly foundation for the assessment of traditional behavior in its proper cultural-historical framework. Throughout the study, emphasis is placed upon the need to combine diachronic and synchronic approaches to cultural data; otherwise, one can only hope to gain limited insight into the worldview of the Greek people.

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