

Georg Heydock, *Gnadenbilder und deren Legenden vom Berg Athos*. Verlag F. Becker & Co. Wiesbaden 1956. Pp. iii + 81.

During recent years many books have been published about Mount Athos, or the so-called Holy Mountain, books both worthy and unworthy of note. For the most part these books are of general content and refer to the monastic peninsula as a whole. More rare are the books which refer to one particular aspect of Mount Athos and to this category belongs the short but very interesting work of G. Heydock. The monks of Mount Athos say that the peninsula they inhabit is "the Garden of the Virgin." This explains why the Virgin is worshipped there to such a great extent and why there exists such a large number of icons depicting her, many of which are rare works of Byzantine art. Most of the icons have a "personality" as it were, all their own. That is to say they have their own particular name (the Virgin Koukouzelissa, the Virgin Portaitissa, the Virgin Tricheroussa and so on). Also each of the icons has its own legend. The object of the writer was as follows: to present to the German reading public each of these icons with their legends. Heydock was in every respect in a position to do this, since, apart from his own personal experience of Mount Athos, he had the qualification of knowing the Greek and Russian languages. Thus he had the facilities for using the relevant bibliography and so his information is completely up to date. Moreover we must note the tone of affection with which the author describes a total of forty one icons. Certain of these do not present any particular archaeological or artistic interest. However that which gives them a place in this book is the fact that they hold a prominent place in the life and faith of the monks of Mount Athos. Four coloured and seven black and white plates are published in the book. At the end is a map of Mount Athos. Most useful too is the table on pages 76-78 of the most important icons of the Virgin, which exist in the monasteries of Mount Athos. The author is indeed worthy of congratulations for his enterprising decision to write about the icons of the Virgin on Mount Athos.

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K. Mirčev-Chr. Kodov, *Eninski Apostol. Starobălgarski pametnik ot XI vek*. Publication of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Sofia 1965. Pp. 263.

The number of Bulgarian manuscripts which have been preserved from the eleventh century is relatively small and for this reason the publication of a text of this period immediately attracts the attention of