

Leo's schemes, but credit for the victory remains his. Destruction of the relief fleet from Egypt soon after its arrival contributed also to the Byzantine victory. T. argues (p. 298, n. 67) that the Egyptian Christian sailors who defected and reported the arrival of the Arab fleet did so because Leo's religious views were similar to their own. It is left unclear, however, how Leo's religious views, presumably his iconoclasm, would be known to these Egyptians, or why this would encourage them to defect.

In the ninth century the fortifications of Constantinople were assaulted three times: by the Bulgarians under Krum in 813-814, by Thomas the Slav in 821-823, and by the Russians in 860. The attacks of Krum and Thomas revealed deficiencies in the defensive circuit, and afterwards these were remedied. Leo V strengthened the fortifications in the Blachernae by building a wall parallel to the Pteron, which joined the wall of Heraclius (p. 155). Thomas' siege revealed the weaknesses of the walls along the Golden Horn. In the following years the Amorion emperors, especially Theophilus, rebuilt whole sections of walls and strengthened others. These measures enabled the city to withstand the Russian attack in 860 despite the emperor's absence with much of the imperial army (though it should not be construed that the city was defenseless; those troops manning the walls would not have accompanied the emperor). Against the refurbished walls of Theophilus the Russians could make no significant threat, and departed after raiding the city's suburbs.

This work provides a valuable contribution to the study of Byzantine Constantinople, its topography and fortifications, and the crucial sieges of the seventh and eighth centuries. Prospective readers, however, should be alert to the numerous errors in the Greek texts (and elsewhere in the work) that result from poor copy editing unexpected from this press.

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LAWRENCE A. TRITLE

Gabriel Ștrempel, *Catalogul manuscriselor românești*, B.A.R. (Biblioteca Academiei României), 1-1600, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București 1978, p. 429.

La parution de ce volume consacré à la description des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque de l'Académie Roumaine (B.A.R.) se situe dans le cadre d'initiative prise par divers centres scientifiques roumains pour le rassemblement des manuscrits trouvés dans les pays roumains. Le livre de M. Ștrempel nous donne les premiers résultats de cette initiative et constitue un manuel de base contenant une bonne part des trésors de la tradition spirituelle roumaine. Dans ce catalogue sont décrits 1600 codes entrés à la Bibliothèque au cours des cent-dix ans de son existence. Les riches fonds de la Bibliothèque de l'Académie Roumaine sont constitués par des donations privées, par des achats, ou proviennent d'autres petites bibliothèques monastiques. La Bibliothèque s'enrichit aussi par l'entrée d'autres codes de provenances diverses. La description de M. Ștrempel ainsi que les autres qui vont suivre dans le proche avenir apportent des informations utiles sur l'importance de la tradition littéraire médiévale ou contemporaine de la Roumanie; ainsi

le chercheur sera guidé dans la recherche de la problématique que pose la diffusion des manuscrits dans les pays roumains, l'évolution et la particularité de l'écriture cyrillique, le style des miniatures, l'école des copistes. L'évaluation de ce travail important ne figurera pourtant pas avant que tous les volumes soient parus.

La démarche dans la description des codes suivie par le rédacteur porte sur les principes de la méthodologie: 1. numéro du code, datation, pagination, dimensions, 2. titre de l'œuvre ou titre figurant entre crochets (intervention du rédacteur), 3. notes des copistes de contenu historique, météorologique, notes des lecteurs, 4. jugements sur le caractère de l'écriture, de la décoration, de la légature et de la provenance de code. Chaque description s'accompagne d'une bibliographie concernant le code (p.ex. édition antérieure ou publication partielle du code). Le souci du rédacteur de respecter la numérotation des codes pourrait justifier cette classification; il serait pourtant souhaitable qu'elle soit complétée par une deuxième classification par ordre des matières traitées: littéraires, juridiques, médicaux etc. Par ailleurs le présent ouvrage est d'un intérêt certain pour l'étude des relations du monde grec avec les principautés roumaines à l'époque en question. Une première lecture pourrait en témoigner: manuels de grammaire, dictionnaires, anthologies, textes littéraires, classiques ou religieux, traductions en roumain, des œuvres de la littérature neohellénique. Le mérite de cet ouvrage nous fait espérer la parution prochaine des volumes suivants.

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ATH. E. KARATHANASSIS

Michael B. Petrovich, *A history of modern Serbia, 1804-1918*, New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1976.

Michael Boro Petrovich's exhaustive narrative of the frenetic and complicated history of the Second Serbian Kingdom is as laden with facts as the chests of the Kingdom's rulers were with medals, and, as with the military decorations, the result is an effect that is both splendid and cluttered. The two-volume work, sponsored by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, is said to be the most thorough chronicle of the short-lived Balkan republic in any language, and it is difficult to imagine one more so. Every battle and border skirmish, every change of government, the details of every new constitution (seven in 102 years) as well as every facet of the countless political intrigues, any one of which makes Watergate look simple by comparison, are related, along with long intermittent sections on the cultural and economic affairs of Serbia, not to mention its complicated position in world politics.

Although a comprehensive approach may have been necessary to tell the story of a country in an almost impossible situation, that of a province of the Ottoman empire that, through a series of revolutions, wars, and political machinations, became the first autonomous — and later, the first independent — state on the Balkan peninsula, later to become the focus of the international posturing among the European Powers that culminated in the First World War, Petrovich's work may prove too long and convoluted for the casual reader. Also, his writing style, while admittedly tested to the extreme, grows monotonous, particularly in the thick of the political developments. Petrovich sticks almost exclusively to straight narrative,