

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

George Georgiades Arnakis, with Eurydice Demetracopoulou, *Americans in the Greek Revolution, I. George Jarvis, His Journal and Related Documents*. Institute for Balkan Studies, No 78, Thessaloniki, 1965. Pp. XXXII + 282.

This book is an excellent production and the editors, Professor Arnakis and Miss Demetracopoulou, and the publishers are to be congratulated on their undertaking. This publication will be welcomed by all those who study the history of the Greek revolution; it adds yet another important documentation to that complex and fascinating series of events which issued in the creation of the modern Greek Kingdom and which gave those Greeks who were fortunate enough to find themselves within its confines a national and free existence. Every detail of that struggle deserves study and all those who took part in it, whether Greeks or friendly aliens, certainly merit, where historical material exists, the attention of historians.

General George Jarvis was an excessively friendly alien, indeed a great enthusiast of Greek Independence. The American Dr. Howe, another enthusiast, wrote of him: "General Jervis (*sic*)... has become a complete Greek in dress, manners and language... He is a man I am proud to own as a countryman." But in point of fact, although a son of Benjamin Jarvis of New York, George Jarvis was born and educated in Germany and although he undoubtedly derived his love of freedom from his American ancestry he was at the same time a product of German Philhellenism. Of all the Philhellenes he was probably the one who saw most fighting. He was equally at home on sea and land. To Greece he gave unstinted service. Tradition has it that he rarely bothered to draw his personal pay, though it would seem that he vigorously protested to the authorities when they ignored the claims of his men. For his Philhellenic ideas and for his unflinching service on sea and land, small though his achievements may have been when viewed along with the countless heroisms of the Greeks themselves, he certainly deserves his niche in Greek national history and to figure in the literature of the Greek *Epanastasis*.

It is fortunate that his fate in this respect should have fallen into the hands of two such painstaking scholars as Professor Arnakis and Miss

Demetracopoulou. It is fortunate too that Jarvis should have left a Journal and that that Journal should have been acquired by the historian George Finlay (who himself made a little use of it) and that Finlay's papers should have passed into the keeping of the British School of Archaeology at Athens. But here the Journal might have rested, only to be glanced at occasionally by stray historians. Fortunately, however, Miss Demetracopoulou and Mr. Thanos Vagenas began to work upon it and later Professor Arnakis undertook the task of preparing for publication this excellent edition. The editorial work, which leaves nothing to be desired, must have been a most exacting piece of work. George Jarvis had as little mercy upon his future editors as he had upon the Turks. In his journal he uses four languages — English, German, French and Greek. (He almost certainly did not compose in Greek, but he copied the Greek written by friendly scribes). Yet, though a man of many tongues, he was master of none: he mixed his languages and misspelt them but without any consistent plan. He wrote his own name in Greek in four different ways and he sprinkled his Greek texts with Italian and Turkish words and with phrases from archaic Greek. He punctuated in his own sweet way, observed no rules with regard to capitals and played havoc with the grammatical forms of all the languages he used. He employed wrong verb endings, wrong conjugations and muddled his genders. He sometimes left gaps for names of places, ships and people, intending, no doubt, to fill them later. Again, his chronology is most confused. Writing often some time after the events he records, he frequently got his dates wrong and to make matters worse he confused the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. On top of all this, he wrote none too clearly. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that almost every line presented his editors with a problem of some kind or other.

All these problems have been dealt with in a systematic fashion by Professor Arnakis (who explains carefully the system adopted) and the result is a clear readable text with a bare minimum of footnotes, which are profitably used for biographical, topographical and bibliographical matters. A good Glossary and Index add to the value of this document, as do also the brief historical introductions to various sections of the Journal and the collection of related documents in the Appendix. The whole production is indeed a model of scholarship and of editing.

Of the intrinsic value of this document as a historical source it is not so easy to speak with certainty. It does not rival the famous memoirs of General Makriyannis or the lengthy memoirs of Kasomoulis or indeed several Greek memoirs that could be mentioned. But nevertheless Jarvis'

Journal makes good reading and for those who already know the story in some detail almost every page contains one, two and sometimes several interesting facts or perhaps a portrait of one or more of the many people Jarvis came across. Of Prince Demetrios Ypsilanti he writes: "Dressed in black, with two large gold epaulets, his head bald, he appeared, addressing him, a very different man from what I imagined and by no means seems destined to free Greece or reign therein... He resembles the present king of Denmark very much, even to the thick underlip, but is of a darker complexion than that king. His discourse is rather insipid" (p. 93). At the Mills of Jerna in August 1822 he met Mr. Papa of Serres, Macedonia. In February 1824 (after telling us that Coliopoulos had rented all the olives around Napoli, upwards of 10,000 trees which would make 500,000 *okas* of oil) he writes: "I resolved to continue my journey towards Mesolonghi and to leave Napoli. Took two forlorn German soldiers along, who remaining from the regiment [*Legion der Philhellenen*] brought out under Kephalas, were, in disgrace to the Franks, literally starving in the streets, whilst some of their officers, instead of at least assisting them in some measure, were playing at cards and feasting in the coffee houses" (p. 183).

Jarvis' diary is indeed full of entertaining observations. Take for example his vivid picture of the Greeks on board the *Themistocles*. "These Greeks", he writes, "take great pleasure in disputing and talking much about nothing and it is requisite then to talk as loud as possible, and he who speaks loudest and most finds a greater attentiveness shewn him. Greeks like good living and on board the ships where men don't find themselves, a captain who provides well for them may always count upon their good will more than another" (p. 109). Here follows remarks on how to make *pilaf* which, one gathers, was washed down by strong Samian wine of which each man drank six large beer glasses full every day. Or again, this is how he describes his first view of Athens. "On my entering the large valley conducting to Athens, I was delighted with the pleasant and charming view and the rich vegetation around me, and the exhalations of the flowers and herbs perfume the air. Milk is excellent here and the finest honey produced. The olive tree prospers particularly and a forest of olives (*eleodhendhron*) surrounds Athens in a semi-circle" (p. 34). Of Chios, where he went ashore he writes: "Das land ist überaus schön und die Vegetation sehr gross. Das Korn war fast gelb, Feigenbäume, Maulbeeren, Platanen, Weinreben, alle mögliche Kräuter und Gesträuche umgeben uns. Ein rieselndes Bächlein floss neben uns hin, das, nach dem Bette

zu schliessen, sich im Herbst und Winter in einen rauschenden Strom verwandelt" (p. 42).

Jarvis does not arise above these literary heights, which are moderate enough. But then he was a soldier and not a dilettante making the grand tour. He does not set out to impress the reader (it is even doubtful whether he believed his *Journal* would ever see the light of day): but he records honestly what he saw, what he heard and those he met, except when he forgot to do so or when he was far too busy with military affairs. He had no axe to grind (unlike writers of memoirs, who so often select and who in doing so often distort) and therefore his *Journal* is a source of some importance. It breathes the atmosphere of the time: it gives thousands of facts which will probably help some one to close certain gaps in the military and naval history of the war: and it will probably help those writing the biographies of some of the people whom Jarvis met. Its chief interest, however, is that it is a fitting memorial to one of the many foreigners who went to help Greece in the hour of need. True the contribution of these foreigners was not great, but the motives in most cases were good and were symptomatic of the European and American Philhellenism of Jarvis' time.

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Ivo J. Lederer, *Yugoslavia at the Paris Conference: a Study in Frontier-making*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1963. Pp. 351.

Professor Lederer's book is a chronicle of the tortuous negotiations pertaining to the settlement of the boundaries of the new Yugoslav state at the end of World War I. While the first part of the book gives an outline of the diplomatic and political genesis of Yugoslavia (in so doing, little is added to the previous studies of Victor Mamaty and M. Paulova), the author's major contribution lies in the day-by-day, detailed descriptions which he presents of the drawing and redrawing of boundary lines, meetings and negotiations, intrigues and quarrels both among the Yugoslav delegates and between them and other Allied delegations in Paris. The author has delved deeply into hitherto unexplored Yugoslav sources, especially the diary of the Yugoslav delegation to the Peace Conference, and the Trumbić Papers, which include the archive of the wartime Yugoslav Committee and Trumbić's official correspondence as a Minister of Foreign Affairs. From these, from the proceedings of the Council of the Peace Conference, as well as from the minutes of the Territorial Commit-