

Various Notes on Books, Periodicals, and Films

Aspects of Polish Culture, edited by Gary Minnich. Bergen Studies in Social Anthropology, No. 38. Bergen: Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, 1987. 96 pp., 13 photographs. (paper).

A small, not readily obtainable, but very interesting book. The Department of Social Anthropology in Bergen and the Department of Slavic Ethnography at Jagiellonian University in Cracow have had a cooperative arrangement since 1980; this book is but the latest product of that relationship. It consists of a set of articles by members of the latter institution translated into English for this publication (some having appeared earlier in Polish): "Petty-Trading in the Villages of South Little Poland During the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries" by Zbigniew Bialy; "The Lajkonik as a Living Tradition of the Cracow Folk" by Jan Bujat and Bodgana Pilichowska; "The Gift in the Polish Wedding" by Matgorzata Maj; "Art as a Vista" by Czesław Robotycki; and "Neighborhood" by Anna Zambrzycka-Kunachowicz. These are introduced by Robert Minnich, a member of the Bergen faculty and a long-time member of EEAG. His essay places the Polish articles in the context of both anthropological theory and Polish ethnography. This is a rare opportunity for those of us who don't speak Polish to see what our Polish colleagues are doing. It is distributed by STUDIA: The University Bookstore, N 5014 Bergen-University, Norway.

Polish Folkways in America. Community and Family, by Eugene E. Obidinski and Helen Stankiewicz Zand. Lanham. New York and London: University Press of America. 151 pp., 4 appendices, name index, subject index, and author biographies. \$24.75 (hardback), \$12.75 (paper)

A collection of articles by sociologist and social worker Stankiewicz Zand, originally published in various issues of *Polish American Studies* between 1949 and 1961. To these Ms. Zand has added a forward, providing the history of the articles, and Eugene Obidinski has contributed two chapters providing historical and sociological context. The articles themselves

deal with language, foodways, community institutions, family life, weddings and christenings, child-rearing, old age and death.

And My Children Did Not Know Me: A History of the Polish-Americans, by John J. Bukowczyk. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. 189 pp., 2 maps, 24 photographs, bibliography and bibliographical essay, index. \$8.95 (paper), \$27.50 (hardback)

A history of Polish-Americans from life in the Old Country and incentives for leaving it to the future of a Polish-American ethnicity. It is clearly the perspective of a historian rather than an anthropologist, and just as clearly the work of a Polish partisan, with its many names of illustrious sons and rather abundant glory for the group as a whole. It is particularly strong with regard to Polish-American participation in labor struggles, the complexities of Polish-American organizational life, and a fine bibliographical essay. It is particularly weak in its failure to place the discussion of Polish-Americans in a larger context of American ethnicity, either historically or theoretically.

High Albania, by Edith Durham. Boston: Beacon Press, 1985. 352 pp., map, photographs, numerous sketches, index. \$10.95 (paper).

At long last, High Albania is again in print! For those who know, this is all that needs to be said. Of the several Victorian travelers who went to the Balkans and wrote about it, Durham stood above the rest. And of her many books on Yugoslavia and Albania, this is the best. Among its other distinctions, it was the single greatest factor in influencing this writer to become an anthropologist. It was originally published in 1908 and is basically the story of Durham's travels around North Albania on the back of a donkey with her tribesman guide. She went on to write another book which speaks of Albanian ethnography more scientifically and she was a frequent contributor to *Man* and the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society*, but *High Albania* remains the best description we have of a functioning tribal Albania. This edition is enhanced by a sensible introduction by John Hodgson.

Chronicles in Stone, by Ismail Kadare. Translated from the Albanian anonymously. New York: New Amsterdam Books/The Meredith Press. \$17.95 (hardback).

This is a novel, in something of the whimsical semi-surrealistic style of Garcia Marquez. But it is an excellent read, and the closest most of us are likely to get to Albania.

A Way of Life and Death: Three Centuries of Prussian-German Militarism, An Anthropological Approach, by Emilio Weilers. Nashville Vanderbilt University Press, 1986. 226 pp. bibliography, index. \$12.95 (paper)

There may be some ambiguity about whether or not to include East Germany in one or another compilation of "Eastern Europe" but a book on German militarism should be of interest to *all* East Europeanists! This was originally published in West Germany in 1984, though Willems left Germany for Brazil in 1931 (he is a renown Latin Americanist), and has lived in the United States since 1949. In this book he traces the evolution of German militarism from obscure origins in the age of Teutonic knights through the formative period of the 19th century, to its climax of World War II, all the while emphasizing that it was a cultural system, in which military purposes come to pervade every aspect of society.

Die säkulare Veränderung des Menarchealters in Europa, by Heidi Danker-Hopfe. Stuttgart: E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung. 1986. 165 pp., 35 illustrations, 39 tables, bibliography, index. DM46 (paper).

A very intensive, highly comprehensive study in the Germanic tradition; everything you ever wanted to know about menarche. The bibliography alone consists of 14 pages. Her discussion of menarcheal age ranges from antiquity and the Middle Ages to the present day and throughout all of Europe, country by country. She includes a review of a great deal of East European literature on the subject.

The Plainchant Tradition of Southwestern Rus', by Joan L. Roccasalvo. Boulder: East European Monographs (distributed by Columbia University Press), 1986. 185 pp., 5 maps, 10 illustrations, bibliography, index. \$22.50 (hardback).

In this small but dense book, the author attempts to determine the sources of Carpatho-Ruthenian liturgical music as found in their basic chant book, the *Tserkovnoje Prostopinije* (1906). She concludes that Rusin plainchant is very similar to the indigenous Rus' chant (the Znamenny) and can be traced in a direct and unbroken line from the earliest known manuscripts of Slavonic music. Discussions in the second half of this book tend to be technical and require some musical knowledge, but the first five chapters, on the history of the Rusins and their music have broader appeal.

The Image of Ivan The Terrible in Russian Folklore, by Maureen Perrie Cambridge. New York. and Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 1987. 269 pp. 16 illustrations, index, bibliography. \$42.50 (hardback).

This is an intriguing study of popular monarchism, or The Myth of the Good Tsar. Perrie examines a large body of folklore (folk tales and songs) about a single ruler to answer the questions of why Ivan was such a popular figure in Russian folklore for so many centuries and why he had such a better image in folklore than historians would credit him with. She includes an interesting discussion on the methodological problems of combining historic and folkloric data and a fine comparison of nostalgia for Ivan and for Stalin. The second half of the book (pp 121-253) consists of the texts, with annotation, on which her analysis is based.

The Pariah Syndrome: An Account of Gypsy Slavery and Persecution, by Ian Hancock. Ann Arbor: Karoma Publishers, 1987. xii + 175 pp., 2 maps, illustrations, 2 appendices, bibliography. \$ 7.95 (paper)

Hancock is a professor of Linguistics (University of Texas-Austin) who also happens to be a Gypsy. He is renown for his work on creole languages, but it is his extensive writing on

Gypsy persecution and discrimination which, particularly given the lack of scholarship by others on this topic, is the more important. Of greatest significance to most readers of the *Newsletter* is the relatively large proportion of this book (chapters 2-5) devoted to the period of Gypsy slavery in the lands now constituting Romania (where emancipation was granted only in 1864). Much of this material was published in the author's earlier monograph, *Land of Pain* (reviewed in the *Newsletter* 2 [2]:15) but this, published in mimeograph, was never widely available. Other relevant sections deal with the history of Gypsy persecution elsewhere in Eastern Europe (chapter 6) and the situation of Gypsies in contemporary Europe, including Eastern Europe (chapter 14). Only a single chapter is devoted to the Holocaust, which most readers might consider the greatest single injustice done to Gypsies (1/2 million murdered, roughly the same proportion as Jews given the relative differences in prewar population). This, however, is a topic which we already have at least some literature (though I hasten to say, not enough) and it is, moreover, Hancock's main point that events like the Holocaust were not isolated tragedies but merely one more stage in a total history of persecution that continues today. Some readers might find the style overly strident, but this is the work of a scholar justifiably outraged both by the injustices done his people and the general lack of concern about these injustices.

Quand l'arbre devient toi: Techniques et croyances des paysans roumains, by Alain Bouras. Etudes et Documents Balkaniques et Mediterraneens. No. 11. Paris, 1986 173 pp., 3 maps, numerous photographs and sketches glossary, bibliography.

Maisons et attaches des paysans roumains de Margina Sibiului (Transylvania), by Paul H. Stahl and Paul Petrescu. Etudes et Documents Balkaniques et Mediterraneens, No. 12. Paris, 1987. 110 pp, 1 map, numerous photographs and sketches, bibliography.

Two more volumes have appeared in Paul Henri Stahl's series of publications on Southeast European ethnology. Volume 11 concerns wood among the Romanian peasantry: from the living tree and beliefs about it to tools and techniques of lumbering to the use of wood for barrels, tubs, houses, grave markers, spoons, etc. There are additional sections on such related subjects as bark containers and firemaking sans matches. All done with the loving detail and utter comprehensiveness of traditional European-style ethnology. The extensive bibliography

alone (though restricted to French and Romanian language literature) makes this a useful reference book to keep on your shelf. Volume 12 deals with a closely related subject, the construction of houses and the ubiquitous courtyard gates in the environs of Sibiu. There are floor plans and sectional diagrams for a wide variety of house types, as well as discussions of various related topics as stove types, shrine construction, and the arrangement of furniture. Please note that, because of rising costs of production, Stahl is no longer able to distribute publications of this series without cost. The price is now \$8.00 each. To purchase, or for further information, contact: Paul Henri Stahl, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, 52, rue du Cardinal Lemoine. 5005 Paris. France.

Amnesty International offers among its Country Reports several monographs of special interest to East Europeanists.

Albania: Political Imprisonment and the Law, 1984 (\$3.00).

Bulgaria. Imprisonment of Ethnic Turks, 1986 (\$5.00).

Romania: Human Rights Violations in the Eighties, 1987 (\$4.00).

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR: Their Treatment and Conditions, second edition 1980 (\$5.95).

Yugoslavia: Prisoners of Conscience, 1985 (\$5.00).

(For the record, Amnesty International also offers two monographs on human rights violations in the United States.) Send your order (including \$1.25 shipping charge for first book, plus \$0.40 for each additional) to Amnesty International USA, 322 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001.

Periodicals

The current issue of *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* consists of a special issue on East European cities. it includes the following articles:

Ivan Szelenyi, "Housing inequalities and Occupational Segregation in State Socialist Cities."

Maria Ciechocinska, "Government interventions to Balance Housing Supply and Urban Population Growth: The Case of Warsaw."

Jiri Musil, "Housing Policy and the Sociospatial Disparities in a 'Socialist' City. The Case of Warsaw at the End of the 1970s."

Ivan Tosics, "Privatization in Housing Policy: The Case of the Western Countries and That of Hungary."

J. Hegedus, "Reconsidering the Roles of the State and the Market in Socialist Housing Systems"

Several issues of *Soviet Anthropology and Archeology* have appeared since our last report:

Volume XXV, Number 2 (Fall 1986) A special issue edited by Natalia Sadomskaya on Studies of the North Caucasus:

N. Sadomskaya, "Introduction."

Ia. S. Smirnova, "Avoidance and Its Gradual Extinction among the Peoples of the North Caucasus."

V. P. Kobychiev, "New and Traditional Features in the Contemporary Dwelling of the People of the North Caucasus."

S. P. Dunn and E. Dunn, "Additional Materials on Caucasian Ethnography

Translated in Soviet Anthropology and Archeology and Soviet Sociology."

Volume XXV, Number 3 (Winter 1986-87)

S. V. Zharnikova, "Some Archaic Motifs in the Embroidery of Sol'vychevodsk Kokoshniks."

L. Manush, "The Problem of the Folk Music of the Gypsies."

I. S. Gurvich and Ch. M. Taksami, "The Social Functions of the Peoples of the North and Far East of the USSR in the Soviet Period."

S. K. Kabanov, "Archeological Data on the Genesis of Feudalism in Central Asia."

Volume XXV, Number 4 (Spring 1987)

"The State and Law in the Ancient East: A Round Table (Part II)."

T. K. Shafranovskaia and B. N. Komissarov, "The Ainu in the Journal of E. E. Levenstern."

V. E. Maksimenko et al, "Rich Early Sarmatian Complexes on the Right Bank of the Don."

Volume XXVI, Number 1 (Summer 1987) A special issue consisting wholly of excerpts from Folklore and Ethnography edited by B. N. Putilov:

R. G. Liapunova, "Raven in the Folklore and Mythology of the Aleuts."

E. M. Meletinskii, "The Incest Archetype in the Folklore Tradition (Especially in the Heroic Myth)."

A. I. Zaitsev, "On the Origin of the Wondertale."

M. M. Gromyko. "The Custom of Adoptive Brotherhood in the Russian Heroic Poem."

I. Sh. Gagulashvili, "Color Symbolism in Georgian Spells."

A. L. Toporkov, "Pottery-making: Mythology and Craft."

Volume XXVI, Number 2 (Fall 1987) A special issue on Russian Folk Narratives About the Supernatural:

L. J. Ivanits, "introduction."

"Creation Legends."

"Devils."

"Sorcerers and Witches."

"The Dniovai and Other Domestic Spirits."

"Nature Spirits."

Ethnologia Europaea is an older (currently in its eighteenth year) journal of European Ethnology, but one which has recently taken on new life. It is now directed not only to European ethnohistorians but also to anthropologists, social historians and others studying the social and cultural forms of everyday life in recent and historical European societies. Unfortunately, as is so often the case, Eastern European societies are given short shift; of the last 43 articles, only 7 dealt directly with Eastern Europe. There is but one way to remedy this situation, and we are informed that your contributions are solicited. Send them to the editor: Professor Bjarne Stoklund, Department of European Ethnology, Brede alle 69, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark. Papers on Eastern Europe in recent numbers have been:

Volume XIV, Number 1 (1984)

K. Roth and J. Roth, "Populäre Lesestoffe in Bulgarien; Zur Geschichte der städtischen Popularkulture in Südosteuropa im 19 und 20 Jahrh."

Volume XV, Number 1 (1985)

J. W. Cole, "Culture and Economy in Peripheral Europe."

Volume XV, Number 2 (1985)

G. Martin, "Peasant Dance Traditions and National Dance Types in East Central Europe, 16th-19th Century."

T. Dobrowolska, "Nachbarschaft und Zusammenarbeit in den KarpathenDorfern."

Volume XVI, Number 2 (1986)

Yu. V. Bromley, "Ethnography and Contiguous Disciplines."

Volume XVII, Number 1 (1987)

T. Hofer, "Agro Town Region of Peripheral Europe: The Case of the Great Hungarian Plain."

Volume XVII, Number 2 (1987)

G. Klaniczay, "Decline of Witches and Rise of Vampires in 19th Century Habsburg Monarchy." *Ethnologia Europaea* is published twice each year, with a majority of papers in English and with English summaries for those papers in French or German. The annual subscription fee for individuals is \$22.00. To subscribe, contact: *Ethnologia Europaea*. Hestehaven 3, DK-5260 Odense S, Denmark.

"The Erotic Stripped Bare; Romanians are Prisoners of Sexlessness," by Linda Mlzejewski. Harper's Magazine, March 1988, pp. 57-62.

This is the first, and quite likely the last, article from Harper's to be reviewed in the IVewsletter. But it will be very interesting for many of our readers, particularly those with first-hand experience in Romania. It is about repression, both political and sexual, and the relationship between the two, by the writer who spent 8 months in Romania in 1984 as a Fulbright lecturer in American literature. It's well written and provides much food for thought.

Films

Ziveli: Medicine for the Heart. Filmed and Directed by Les Blank in collaboration with Andre Simic. Flower Films (10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530).

EEAG charter member Andrei Simic has finally finished his film, and it was worth waiting for. He teamed up for the project with veteran Les Blank, an independent filmmaker of some repute - with the emphasis on independent. Blank tends to ignore fads and criticisms and to make films about those subjects he is personally most interested in, namely folk music, food and women. *Ziveli* escapes the patronizing and sexist perspective of Blank's only other film about East European subject matter, *In Heaven There Is No Beer?* (re: polka culture) and is made in the format of what many consider Blank's best, *Chulas Fronteras*. For Simic, this film was obviously a labor of love. It grew out of his dissatisfaction with an earlier film concerning his Serbian culture. *Ziveli* lacks a story-line or a single focus, instead leading viewers through a wide range of family and community events in Chicago and northern California and interviews with a variety of community members (the best with Ted Popovich, member of a popular tamburica orchestra). Overall, the effect is to tell what it is like to be ethnic, and specifically Serbian, in America. There is more music and dance than some viewers will want to view. But anyone who

has spent much time with Serbian-Americans knows that this is no distortion. (Also, I suspect, this emphasis stems from a constellation of interests of Simic and Blank.) A more serious criticism is that the film ignores the two major divisions within the Serbian-American community, between pre- and post-WWII immigrants (the latter still referred to as "DPs" by the former) and, even more important, between the two formulations of the Serbian Orthodox Church in America (although much of the film concerns the Church or its priests). Nevertheless, *Ziveli* is an enjoyable film, which will have many uses in the classroom and beyond. It is especially enjoyable for those of us with some experience in the community, for it is sure to invoke fond memories of huge feasts with good company and long nights of standing around a tamburica band in some church basement with a drink in one's hand.