

'Οππιανού *Κυνηγετικά*, édition critique. Par P. BOUDREAUX. Pp. 151. Paris: Champion. 1908.

This is the first fully critical edition of the *Cynegetica*. M. Boudreaux has collated all the MSS. but one (in the almost inaccessible Philipps library at Cheltenham), and has done his best to establish the text scientifically. It may be said that Oppian is hardly worth the trouble, but it is satisfactory to have the work thoroughly done once for all; and this, so far as the *apparatus criticus* is concerned, M. Boudreaux has done. In the restoration of the text finality is not attainable.

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Les *Mavroyéni*, Histoire d'Orient (de 1700 à nos jours) illustrée de nombreuses gravures, portraits, facsimilés, cartes, etc. Par THÉODORE BLANCARD. 2 vols. 8vo. Pp. xv+757 and 817. Paris: Leroux. 1909. 15 f.

These volumes are devoted to the history of the family of Mavrogenes, which at the time of its appearance on the political stage—the latter half of the eighteenth century, despite the promise of the sub-title—was established at Paros. Volume i. contains the life of the founder of the family fortunes, Nicolas, who was dragoman of the Imperial fleet under the Captain-pasha Hassan Ghazi and in that capacity settled the affairs of the Maina after Orloff's ill-fated expedition. Nicolas Mavrogenes, an 'outsider' from the Islands, became, to the great disgust of the Phanariotes, not only an influential personage at Constantinople, but eventually Hospodar of Wallachia, which post was always regarded as a Phanariote perquisite. As Hospodar he successfully conducted the war with Austria till the loss of a battle in 1790, coinciding with the death of Hassan, cost him his head. The second volume deals with other members of the Mavrogenes family who have risen to distinction chiefly in the Turkish civil and diplomatic services, but have also played a part in the affairs of the Greek kingdom.

The book contains much interesting matter, but unless the author was commissioned by the family concerned (which we cannot help suspecting to have been the case) the form chosen is unfortunate. Family history is rarely worth writing at second hand, and the great knowledge and patience of the writer would to our mind have been better employed in developing some of the many subjects of wider interest touched on by the way; as it is, these digressions, entertaining in themselves, rather clog the narrative. The illustrations also with few exceptions are chosen for their family interest: even so it is difficult to see what purpose is served by pictures of isolated arm-chairs and coffee-cups. There is no index, and what is still more singular in a work of this kind, no general pedigree of the family.

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Λαογραφία, Δελτίον τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Λαογραφικῆς Ἑταιρείας κατὰ τριμηνίαν ἐκδιδόμενον. Τόμος α', τεύχος α' [pp. 168]. Ἐν Ἀθήναις, τύποις Π. Δ. Σακελλαρίου, 1909.

The quarterly publication of the newly-founded Greek Folklore Society will be welcomed firstly as an outlet for the editor's (Prof. N. G. Politis') vast collections of Greek folklore, secondly as a stimulus to a more scientific study of the subject than has been usual in Greece, where popular customs and traditions are apt to be appreciated only as survivals from the classical period. It is with the wider object in view that the editor devotes his first pages to an exposition of the spheres, methods, and aims of the study. Among the contents we note with pleasure a collection of Graeco-Albanian songs and stories from Spetsa and Attica with a racy Greek translation and full commentary by the editor. To foreign students of Greek folklore the reviews of recent Athenian publications will be invaluable.