

too much to insist on a comprehensive index and bibliography; both are singularly lacking in an otherwise carefully prepared edition.

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MARIE OF ROMANIA: THE INTIMATE LIFE OF A TWENTIETH CENTURY QUEEN. By *Terence Elsberry*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1972. xiv, 298 pp. \$11.95.

Once upon a time a beautiful princess was betrothed to the heir apparent of a mysterious young kingdom in southeastern Europe whose history was filled with violence, lust, and questionable ancestry. This princess, born in 1875 in London, one of Victoria's too numerous grandchildren, was fated to become one of the most questionable monarchs of the twentieth century. Thus an amateur biographer, currently editor of *Apartment Ideas*, a Des Moines-based magazine, has attempted to produce a lachrymose biography of Queen Marie of Rumania, who was probably the real ruler of Rumania during her inadequate husband's reign from 1914 to 1927. This popular account by Terence Elsberry should not be scolded merely because he lacked access to archives in Rumania; no Westerner has been granted such a privilege by the regimes which have weighed heavily upon Rumania since its independence was achieved three years after Marie's birth. Marie, consort of Ferdinand of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (1865–1927), mother of the playboy King Carol II (1893–1953), and the mistress of an unknown number and variety of suitors, never admitted her readers to her bedroom in her two-volume autobiography (*The Story of My Life and Ordeal*, plus articles in the *Cornhill Magazine* in 1939). Her exciting life, only superficially re-created by Elsberry in Bucharest, London, St. Petersburg, Sinaia, New York, Paris, and other trysting sites, begs for amplification if only because of the cogency of an argument that Marie was the real power within Rumania during her husband's ineffectual rule, a power she must have wrested from Ion Brătianu (1864–1927), the still indisputable boss of Rumanian politics and corruption between 1907 and his death in 1927. This biography is certainly worthy of a grade-B Hollywood film. It does not profess to be definitive. No one in Bucharest today could write a dispassionate biography of Marie, who died in 1938 after years of alienation from her son Carol; her grandson King Michael could not write one from his sanctuary in Switzerland. Perhaps Marie will join the company of so many forlorn queens whose impartial biographies will never appear. Thus she rests beside her husband in the monastic church at Curtea de Argeș in the Transylvanian foothills, a much-maligned monarch in the tradition of Anne Boleyn, Josephine de Beauharnais, Catherine Howard, Tsaritsa Alexandra, Anastasia Romanovna, and even Elena ("Magda") Lupescu, her son's mistress who survives in luxury at Estoril.

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DUBROVNIK I ARAGONCI, 1442–1495. By *Momčilo Spremić*. Belgrade: Zavod za izdavanje udžbenika SR Srbije, 1971. 325 pp.

The discussion of relations between Dubrovnik and the Aragonese Kingdom in Southern Italy from 1442 to 1495 presented in this book by Professor Momčilo