

note that a few monuments located in Bessarabia and Southern Dobrudja, both currently under non-Rumanian rule, are included.

Although other architectural categories are given their due, the heart of the book is devoted to the Orthodox churches and monasteries which remain to this day Rumania's crowning historical treasure. A short but important chapter is devoted to the beautiful and creative architectural products of Rumania's peasant culture—houses, wooden churches, and decorative carvings. Subjects discussed in the text are profusely illustrated by hundreds of diagrams, floor plans, and sketches, most of which were done by Professor Ionesco personally or under his immediate supervision. These are of high quality and contribute materially to the explanations in the text. The accompanying photographs are effectively conceived but suffer somewhat in reproduction. Too few of them are in color, which is often essential to convey the full impact of the object under consideration. More and better color photographs of the painted churches of Moldavia, for example, would materially improve the presentation.

Minor defects such as these do not nullify the book's general effectiveness as an introduction to what is undoubtedly the most characteristic and significant part of Rumania's cultural heritage. Though not intended as a guidebook, this volume should be consulted by anyone planning a serious study tour of Rumania's historical monuments. One hopes that an English version will also appear.

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CĂRȚILE DE ÎNȚELEPCIUNE ÎN CULTURA ROMÂNĂ. By *Alexandru Duțu*. Institutul de Studii Sud-Est Europene, "Biblioteca istorică," vol. 34. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1972. 168 pp. Lei 11.

Exhaustively documented, Duțu's survey of the moral and philosophical treatises published in the Rumanian Principalities in the period 1650–1850 is further evidence of the impressive research currently being undertaken by specialists associated with the Institute for South-East European Studies in Bucharest. Duțu makes a clear distinction between codes of conduct designed for the instruction of princes (*oglinzi* princepului) and books of etiquette addressed to the general reader. In tracing Rumania's many, if somewhat haphazard, contacts with the rest of Europe at a time when immense strides were being made in France, Germany, England, and the Netherlands in bringing philosophical questions into line with human needs, Duțu is perhaps too eager to stress the importance of Western thought and the efforts made by a number of enlightened men to establish a native tradition of Orthodox rationalism. For the nonspecialist, unaccustomed to the special problems of dealing with an area which, with the possible exception of Transylvania, was essentially an intellectual backwater, the continual telescoping of patterns of thought and the frequent recourse to appendages such as medieval, humanist, Renaissance—not always in their customary context—are likely to be irritating, if not totally confusing. Nevertheless, Duțu's plea that the Principalities no longer be considered a mere tributary of Balkan obscurantism deserves serious consideration, even though the list of contacts he describes is startling for its omissions (Machiavelli, Montaigne, Pascal, Rousseau, etc.). Finally, at the risk of excessive carping, it is surely not

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 Argeş 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