

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

Spremić, of the University of Belgrade, fills a serious gap in our knowledge of both areas. Indeed, since the Neapolitan archives burned in 1943, and few documents for the fifteenth century survived, the contribution of Dubrovnik's materials to the elucidation of the history of Southern Italy is even more substantial.

Dubrovnik's extremely intense relations with Southern Italy both before and after this time have been studied, but almost nothing has been done for this period. Spremić's excellently documented work eliminates that vacuum. It also shows the role Dubrovnik's strong relations with Southern Italy played in that city's political attitudes and economic relations with the Western world and with the Ottomans, at a time when the latter had just conquered the immediate vicinity of Dubrovnik and its main trading area in the Balkans.

Spremić has asked and answered many pertinent questions, especially concerning economic and consular activities and the men involved in them. The image that emerges is one of constant and vigorous relations, in spite of harassment by pirates and other difficulties. One regrets, however, that the chapter on political relations is very brief (pp. 7–27), though some interesting aspects of these relations are discussed in footnotes to other chapters. Also, one wonders why it was necessary to restrict the conclusions of such a rich work to a mere two and a half pages—this brevity unavoidably results in some contradictions.

Finally, a book which deals so much with Italian and Spanish history, and is therefore of great interest to scholars of the whole Mediterranean area, should have been provided with a much more detailed summary in a Western language than the existing four and a half pages in Italian.

Despite these and some additional remarks that could be made, Spremić's monograph is a valuable contribution and an indispensable tool for understanding Italian and Balkan history in the fifteenth century.

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RAZVITAK FILOSOFIJE U SRBA, 1804–1944. By *Andrija Stojković*. Belgrade: "Slovo Ljubve," 1972. 630 pp.

This large, well-written, profusely illustrated, and technically impressive volume is a sequel to *Počeci filosofije u Srba: Od Save do Dositeja ne osnovama narodne mudrosti* (Belgrade, 1970), the author's pioneering step in the direction of an eventual history of Serbian philosophy. Extremely thorough, solidly detailed, and almost forbiddingly comprehensive in its coverage of social and intellectual movements, works, and personages, this book embraces not only philosophers, such as Božidar Knežević, Branislav Petronijević, and Ksenija Atanasijević, but also philologists, ethnographers, folklorists, journalists, poets, literary critics, political ideologists, jurists, theologians, mathematicians, astronomers, physicists, biologists, and others. The order of presentation is largely chronological and biographical, though considerably complicated by various divisions and subdivisions reflecting additional principles of organization. This is why a certain figure may be discussed not only in his main section but also in other rubrics to which parts of his opus can be referred. Although not always equally successful in his apparent endeavor to maintain a high level of critical detachment and fairness, the author is, on the whole, relatively objective and balanced, especially in his treatment of intellectual