

LA ROMANITÉ DES ROUMAINS: HISTOIRE D'UNE IDÉE. By *Adolf Armbruster*. *Bibliotheca Historica Romaniae*, Monographies, 17. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1977. 279 pp. Lei 22.

The translation of the 1971 Rumanian edition of this work is another contribution to the extensive literature dealing with the continuity of Roman culture in Rumania—a most important historical question to modern Rumanians. The book is only an indirect attempt to prove continuity, however; for the most part, it is an account (with extensive excerpts in the original languages) of those Rumanian and foreign writers, who, from the tenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries, considered the question of Rumanian *romanité*—that is, the continuity of descent from the Roman colonists of Dacia and the Roman character of the modern Rumanian language and customs. The work is essentially Armbruster's doctoral dissertation, written under the direction of Andrei Oțetea, a noted Rumanian historian, who provides a short preface. As one would expect, the book is thorough and scholarly, with more than adequate documentation. The reader will be impressed by the author's mastery of "the impressive bulk of material collected," as was Oțetea (p. 7), and may also agree that Armbruster is a worthy successor of the Saxon historians of Transylvania. Unless he is one of the specialists to whom the question is of particular relevance, however, the reader is likely to tire of the lengthy catalog of writers who, through the centuries, have observed the *romanité* of the Rumanians. But, for the specialist, the point is well made; there simply is no serious tradition to contradict continuity. One may object that the Hungarian writers who made their appearance toward the end of the period, suggesting a later Rumanian migration into Transylvania, are not given a fair hearing, but that is hardly to be expected, and their witness does nothing to change the overall picture.

Although the theme of the book is narrow, there is some information for the scholar whose interests are broader than the history of Rumanian *romanité*. Many of the writers who march through Armbruster's pages are extremely interesting in themselves. Popes, humanists, Saxon chroniclers, Jesuit missionaries—all are worthy of further attention. For the historian who is particularly concerned with the inter-relationship between East and West, the book could well prove seminal.

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BULGARIA PAST AND PRESENT: STUDIES IN HISTORY, LITERATURE, ECONOMICS, MUSIC, SOCIOLOGY, FOLKLORE AND LINGUISTICS. Edited by *Thomas Butler*. Proceedings of the First International Conference on Bulgarian Studies Held at the University of Wisconsin, Madison—May 3–5, 1973. Columbus, Ohio: American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 1976. xiv, 397 pp. Paper.

As Professor Robert Byrnes pointed out in this journal a short while ago (*Slavic Review*, 36, no. 2 [June 1977]: 286–91), there is good reason to fear for the health of the Slavic profession. The contraction of employment possibilities is enervating a generation of graduate students, universities are not replacing senior professors, and decreasing enrollments are discouraging even the most optimistic. But one sign of health is the proliferation of special interest groups for the study of East European problems. Whereas fifteen years ago the AAASS itself had yet to hold its first national convention, today a number of groups meet regularly to pursue special interests. There are groups for the study of Greece, Rumania, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, and others, as well as the American Association for Southeast European Studies and the Association for the Study of the Nationalities in the Soviet Union.

One of the most successful of these groups has been the Bulgarian Studies Group. Founded in 1971 by a handful of interested scholars, it immediately began publishing