

GREECE

MILLER, JULIA E. *Modern Greek Folklore: An Annotated Bibliography*.

Editor's Preface by Alan Dundes. Garland Folklore Bibliographies, Vol. 9. General Editor: Alan Dundes. New York and London: Garland Publishing Inc., 1985. Xviii+141 pages. Forword, introduction, subject index. Hardcover US\$21.00, ISBN 0-8240-9038-1.

This is the ninth volume in a series of Garland Folklore Bibliographies, of which Alan Dundes is general editor. Julia E. Miller, the compiler, presents 433 entries, covering the period from the "mid-nineteenth century to 1983" (xiii). Items are numbered sequentially and arranged alphabetically by authors' last names. Multiple works by the same individual are listed chronologically. "Materials cited," notes Miller, "are written in English, French, German, Greek and Italian" (xiii). Annotations vary in length from single sentences to lengthy, and occasionally multiple, paragraphs; and the information provided ranges from general characterizations to detailed descriptions of a work's genesis and contents. The single index, by subject (137-141), includes as its key words designations for such diverse phenomena as places, forms, holidays, ethnic groups, and life-cycle events.

Both the series editor and the compiler make it clear—and state so in identical words—that this work neither is, nor is it intended to be, comprehensive ("No bibliography is ever complete," ix, xiv). Accepting that as an admitted limitation, one is prompted to ask if the entries are representative. In the variety and kinds of works it includes, Miller's bibliography can be said to reflect, in a general way, the evolution of, principal emphases in, and major contributors to Modern Greek folklore studies. Publications listed vary in kind from notes and brief descriptive essays authored by nineteenth-century travelers and dilettantes, to scholarly works positing continuities from classical to contemporary times, to field-based studies of specific events and communities. Representative publications by prominent figures in the history of Modern Greek folklore study—Greeks such as Politis, Kyriakides, and Megas, and non-Greeks such as Dawkins and Herzfeld—are included, appropriately, in disproportionately large numbers. Finally, collections and studies of the forms upon which students of Modern Greek folklore have tended to focus—narrative, custom, belief, and ritual, for instance—are adequately represented.

Modern Greek Folklore: An Annotated Bibliography is not without its faults, however; and their nature and number are not inconsequential. I enumerate and discuss briefly here only three.

First, anyone familiar with the subject will be struck immediately by the derivative nature of Miller's work. Most of the entries she includes are listed in existing bibliographies, some published as bibliographies and others included in or appended to essay- or book-length works. Hence, Miller's bibliography is noticeably duplicative, including very few references that cannot be found elsewhere in print.

Second, the number of works published in Greek is strikingly few, contrary to what the reader is led to expect. In his prefatory essay, the series editor states that Modern Greek folklore data and studies have remained relatively unknown because few scholars can speak or read the language. Miller's bibliography, Dundes asserts, will remedy this problem. But because the number of works written in Greek and included in the bibliography is so small, the problem is not really remedied at all. In her introduction to the volume, Miller states, "In addition to those included in this bibliography, many more works in Greek by these [i.e., several scholars whom she

names] and other folklorists can be found by consulting the following sources" (xvii); but the sources she lists are bibliographies published in Greek folklore periodicals and written in Greek! Hence, the reader turning to this work to find English-language characterizations of a sizable corpus of folklore works written in Greek by Greek scholars is destined to be disappointed.

A third problem is that Miller does not indicate what her selection criteria were and what periodicals and runs of specific journals she did and did not examine. Thus, while numerous items appearing in the English journal *Folklore* are included, many other relevant works published in that periodical during the time period covered by Miller's bibliography are conspicuously absent, suggesting that she either did not examine all volumes and issues of *Folklore* or that she rejected some pertinent publications for reasons she fails to specify. Conversely, very few entries come from *Laographia*, the leading Greek folklore journal, from which one would expect the bulk of the bibliography entries to have come, particularly since the compiler indicates that works written in Modern Greek are included.

As with any work of this sort, there are both errors and omissions. An important book by James Rennell Rodd, for example, is listed under *Rennell* rather than *Rodd*. While the lists of entries by leading scholars are, as noted above, relatively lengthy, some are not really long enough. Without any searching, for instance, I could think of ten works by Richard M. Dawkins that Miller fails to include; and the number of citations for such other major figures as Politis and Kyriakides should similarly have been much larger. Finally, important information is sometimes not included in entries, as is the case for item 220, a book containing English translations of two important short works by Kyriakides for which Miller fails to give the names of the translators and editor.

To the beginning student, Miller's bibliography should be a convenient introduction to Modern Greek folklore and folklore scholarship. To individuals already familiar with the subject, however, the work will probably be of limited usefulness. The series in which this volume appears is presumably intended for the professional folklorist, and hence the works should be both directed toward and compiled by those with the requisite expertise in the fields represented. *Modern Greek Folklore: An Annotated Bibliography* would appear to be a work intended for the non- or pre-professional and compiled by one with limited familiarity with, and knowledge of, the field.

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