

Anthologie des chansons populaires grecques. Introductions de Georges C. Spyridakis et Dimitri A. Pétropoulos. Traduction et notes de Jean-Luc Leclanche, Gallimard, Paris 1967. 342 pp.

The book contains a) an Avertissement du traducteur (p. 9 - 11) in which the translator gives a short account of the story of the Anthology, and of the choice and the translation in French of the songs, b) a general and interesting Introduction (p. 13-19) by Prof. Dr. G. Spyridakis on the meaning, the origins and the place of folk-poetry in the life of the people, and on the origins and editions of Greek folk songs, and c) a short Index Bibliographique (p. 21-23).

The Anthology contains 196 folk songs (poetic text only without music) selected from various collections, mostly from Ayis Theros' very important one " The Songs of the Hellenes" (Athens, 1951, " Basic Library "). It is divided in seven chapters, each containing a number of songs of a different category: I Songs of Akritas ⁽¹⁾ (Nos 1-20), II Historic and Clephitic songs (Nos 21-51), III (Paralogues (Ballads, Nos 52-74), IV Love and nuptial songs (Nos 75-103), V Emigration songs (Nos 104-123), VI Songs of Death and Dirges (Nos 124-157) and VII Miscellanea (Nos 158-196) to which a number of Cretan distichs and aubades is added.

(1) Akritai were called the guards of the Akra (=the extremities, the frontiers) of the Byzantine Empire.

Each of the first six chapters has a short introduction explaining the character and the origin of each category; the first three introductions (I - III) are written by Prof. Dr. G. Spyridakis and the last three (IV - VI) by Prof. D. Petropoulos.

The selection of the songs was made most carefully and in a representative way; main collections used, besides Ayis Theros' collection mentioned above were Prof. D. Petropoulos' " Greek Folk Songs" (Hellinica Demotica Tragoudia, two vols. Athens, 1958-59), a collection with the same title of the Folklore Archives of the Academy of Athens (Athens, 1962) and N. Politis' Eklogai ("Selections from the songs of the Greek people", Athens 1914, reed. 1958).

M. Jean-Luc Leclanche's translation is remarkable in many ways: in fidelity, in spirit and even in style. His aim being to make these songs known and loved by a public having no access to them, his difficult task was attained with considerable success.

SOLON MICHAELIDES

Annuaire des Archives de Folklore de l'Académie
d'Athènes (Directeur: Prof. Dr. Georges Spyridakis)
Vol. XVII (1964) - Athens, 1965 : 278 pp.

This volume of the Annual Journal (1964) of the Folklore Archives of the Academy of Athens contains

- a) a number of studies, such as " The old woman as a traitor in the Greek Folk traditions", " Dualistic legends", " The use of metals in superstitious practices" (p. 3- 114),
- b) An extended bibliography of Greek folklore of the year 1963 (p. 115 - 171),
- and c) Statements on various missions carried out in 1964 to various parts of Greece, and on the activities of the Archives in the same year (p. 172 - 254).

The text is in Greek but there is always a short and comprehensive summary in French at the end of each study or statement.

Among the statements there are two ~~wondering~~ musical missions the first carried out by Sp. Peristeris to the region of Phokis (p. 173-184) and the second by St. Karakassis to Pylia (p. 204 -217); besides other material and interesting observations there are in these two statements musical examples (mainly transcriptions of recorded folk-songs)

SOLON MICHAELIDES