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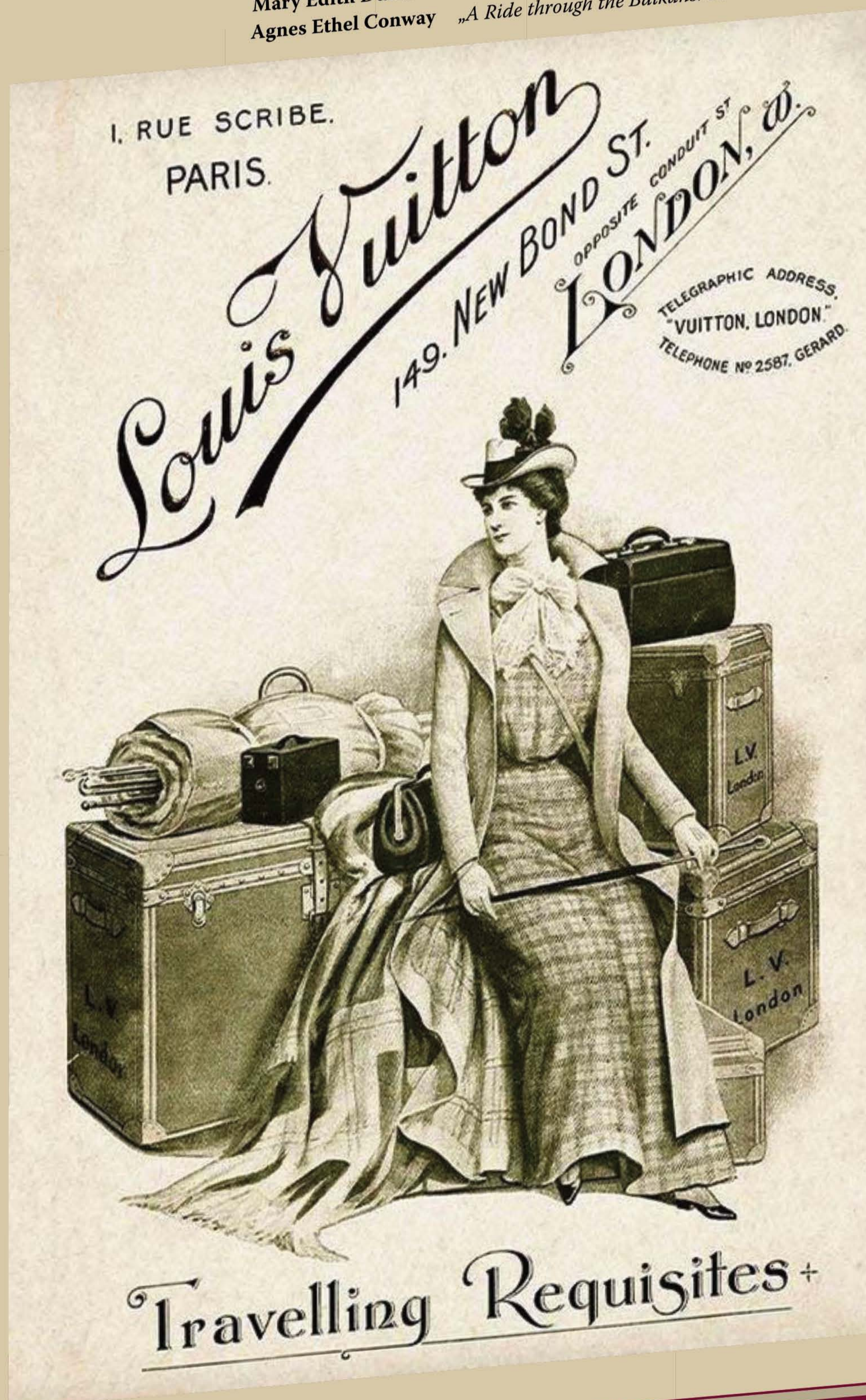
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Exhibition

“Captivated by the Balkans”

The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Lady Mary Wortley Montagu | „Turkish Embassy Letters“, 1725 |
| Lucy Mary Jane Garnett | „Balkan Home-Life“, 1917 |
| Mrs. William Gordon | „A Woman in the Balkans“, 1916 |
| Georgina Mackenzie, Paulina Irby | „Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey-in-Europe“, 1867 |
| Mary Edith Durham | „The Burden of the Balkans“, 1905 |
| Agnes Ethel Conway | „A Ride through the Balkans: on classic ground with a camera“, 1917 |



DOCENDO
 DISCIMUS

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On travel literature as a genre and British travelling ladies wandering our lands...

The tradition of travel literature spans centuries in Europe, and by the end of World War I, had found a wide audience. The genre tells the story of both unknown and strange lands, peoples and cultures, serving as a mirror to the traveler's views, beliefs and prejudices. This selection of travel literature on the Balkans is part of the fund of the Diplomatic Institute's Library, where rare foreign-language editions are kept that were once part of the library of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs in the period 1879 – 1944.

The British travelling ladies...

The very first British female travel writers were wives of diplomats who accompanied their husbands on their missions abroad in the 18th century. A century later, the proverbial passion of the subjects of Queen Victoria gave birth to the term 'traveling ladies'.

With the rise of feminist ideas in the second half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, a new type of female traveler emerged, whose historical, ethnographic and linguistic research was entirely on par with that of her male counterparts, occasionally surpassing them. The reputation of some of them grew to the point where they were sought out by the British government for their expertise.

...captivated by the "wild" Balkans

The exhibition features seven British female travelers and their encounters with the Balkan Peninsula over different periods of time, beginning from the turn of the 18th century to the outbreak of WWI.

Authors from the 20th century prevail – Lucy Garnett, Edith Durham, Winifred Gordon, and Agnes Conway, as their travelogues are part of the collection of the DI's Library and are presented here for the first time to the Bulgarian public.

The works of Lady Mary Montagu, 'discoverer' of the region during the Age of Enlightenment, and that of the advocates of the South Slavic cause in the 19th century, Georgina Mackenzie and Polina Irby have been translated into Bulgarian and are already well-known in the country, but are nonetheless included in the exhibition due to their fundamental relevance to both the topic and the region.

The Balkans transformed them, and they themselves transformed the Balkans... What unites the presented travelers are their colorful personalities, individuality, courage, unconventional thinking and a pursuit of discovery that had taken them away from their homes – in the stagnating, patriarchal world of the Balkan Peninsula. With their writings they tore down outdated perceptions and built bridges between the East and the West.

The Balkans transformed them, and they themselves transformed the Balkans...

Some of them also actively worked to improve the lives of the people in the region, by establishing all-girls schools and setting up hospitals and refugee camps during military conflicts.

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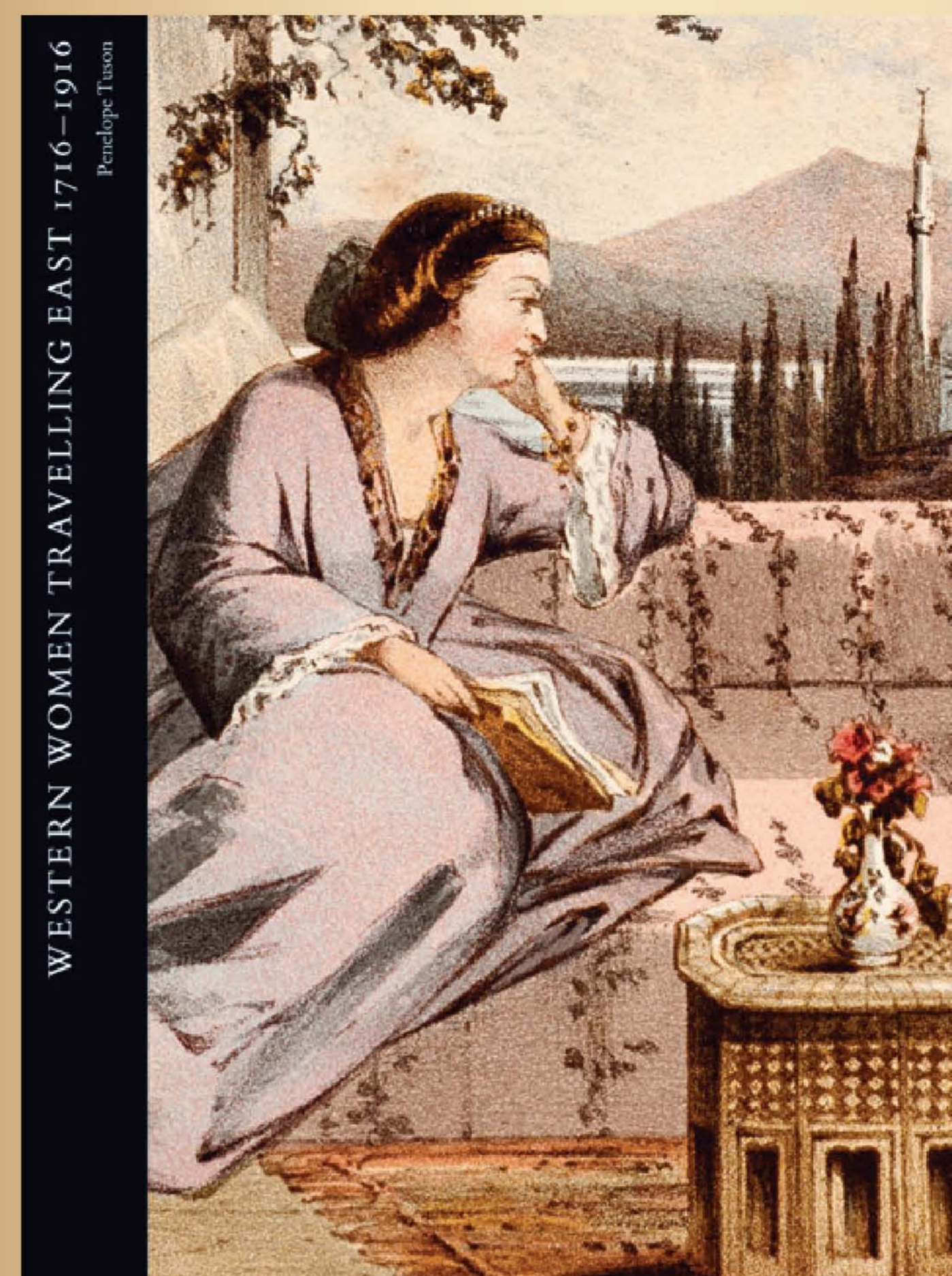
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Captivated by the Balkans

The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)



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Issue #1/2019

Destination: The “Volcanique” (Balkanique) Peninsula

18th century: geographically in Europe, culturally in the Orient

During the early 18th century, when Lady Mary Montagu first reached the European territories of the Ottoman Empire, the Balkan Peninsula had yet to be defined in geographical terms. The term Balkans (Ottoman Turkish for ‘mountain range’) appeared a century later, reflecting the already established notions in Europe of this part of the continent as one that is geographically European, but culturally Oriental.

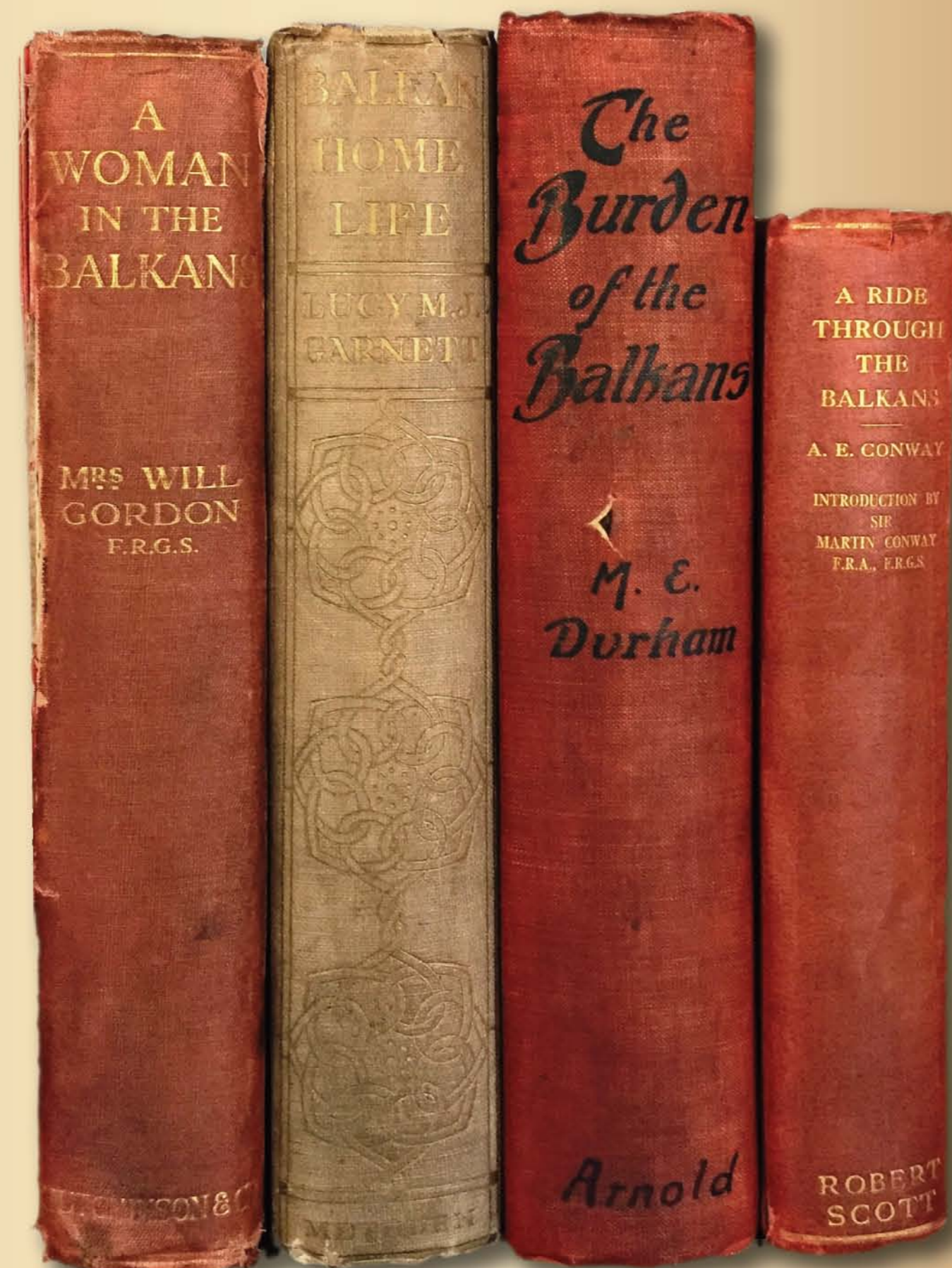
19th century: new states, new perceptions

During the 19th century, a weakened Ottoman Empire gradually lost its European territories. The process of national awakening and self-affirmation of the peoples of the Balkans drew the attention of European society. On the geographical map of the Balkan Peninsula, new states emerged one after the other – Greece, Romania, Montenegro, Bulgaria – all insisting their voices be heard. Due to the profound observations and research of travelers like Georgina Mackenzie and Pauline Irby, the Balkans acquired a new, more developed and enhanced image.

Early 20th century: the “volcanique” peninsula

The political borders of the newly-formed national states in the Balkans following the Berlin Congress of 1878 left behind a great deal of countrymen inside the territories of the Ottoman Empire. The struggle for national and territorial unity, fought by each of the countries, turned the region into an

arena of instability and earned it the French nickname the “volcanique” peninsula. One turbulent event followed another – the Ilinden-Preobrazhenie uprising against the Ottoman rule in Macedonia in 1903, the Young Turk Revolution, the achievement of Bulgarian independence, the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austro-Hungary in 1908, the two Balkan wars (1912-1913) that unleashed waves of refugee in all directions, Albanian independence in 1912, etc. In this complex situation, first-hand accounts gathered ‘on the ground’ by foreign travelers were of exceptional value to the European public.



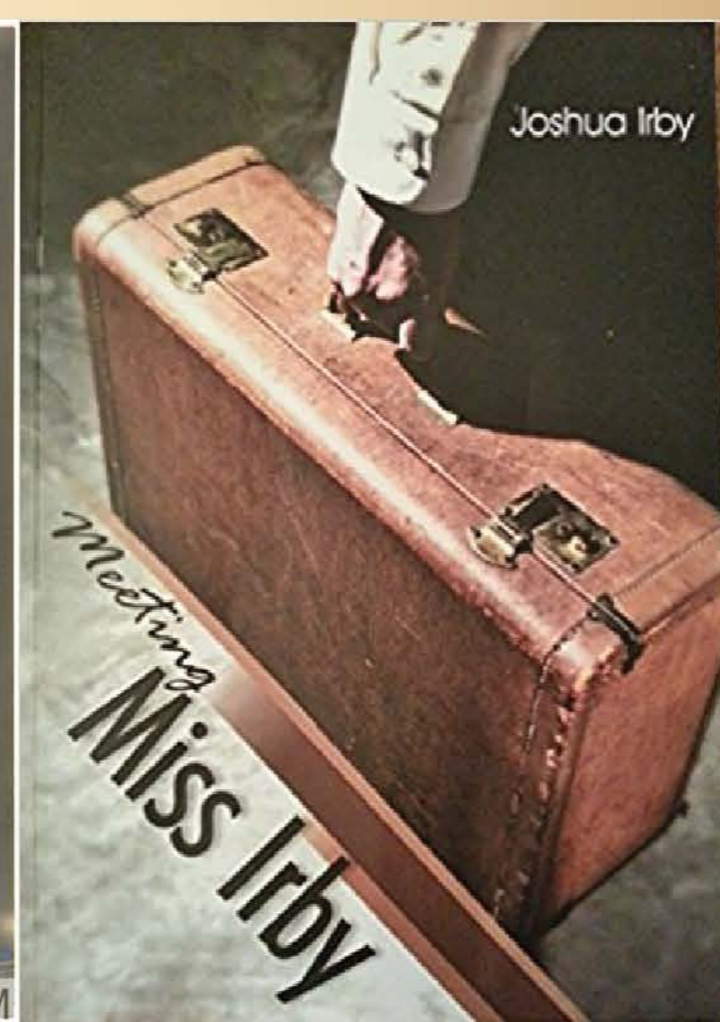
Mrs. Will Gordon, F.R.G.S.
From a portrait by Percy Anderson



A Portrait of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu in Ottoman dress



Honorary Secretary Agnes Ethel Conway
MBE, Imperial War Museum



A Biography of Adeline Paulina Irby

Captivated by the Balkans

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ILLUSTRATING THE BERLIN CONGRESS TREATY, JULY, 1878.

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Issue #1/2019

The Balkans – a part of the Orient: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689 - 1762) and „Turkish Embassy Letters“ (1716 - 1718)

On April 1, 1717, in Edirne, the English aristocrat Lady Mary Montagu wrote to the Princess of Wales: „I have now, Madam, past a journey that has not been undertaken by any Christian since the time of the Greek emperors... the emperor's ambassadors, and those few English that have come hither, always going on the Danube to Nicopolis“.

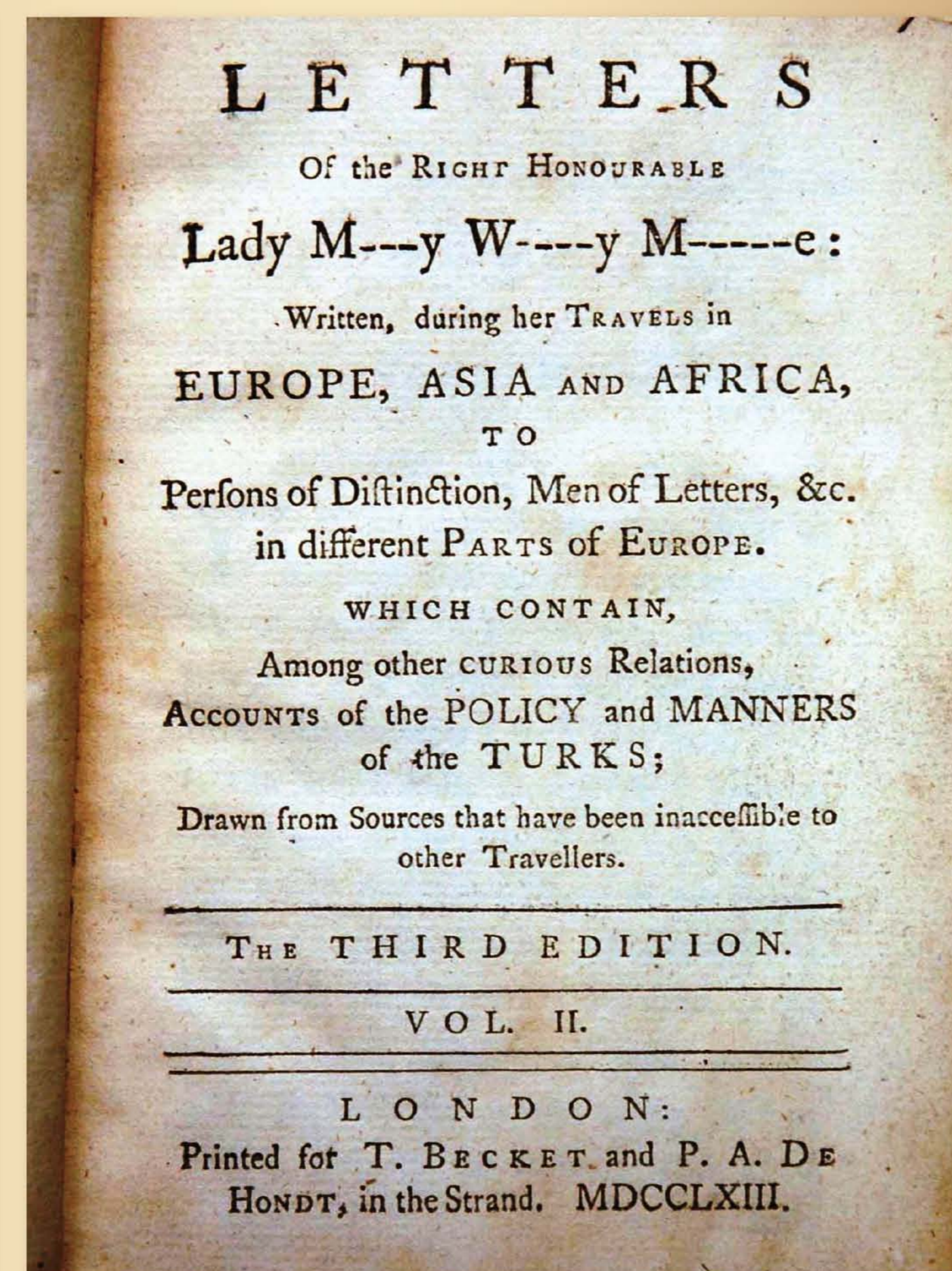
The first female travel writer

At 28, Lady Montagu launched women's travel literature with *„Letters from the Embassy in Turkey [1716 - 1718]“*, a work reflecting her impressions of the journey from Vienna to Constantinople as the wife of the British Ambassador to the Sultan's Court. Her route ran through Belgrade, Nis, Sofia, Plovdiv, and Edirne, and would later become the track of choice for travelers to come.

The Balkans as part of the Orient

During her travels and stay in the Ottoman Empire, and in accordance with her social status, Lady Mary Montagu socialized exclusively with upper class women. Her interaction with high-ranking representatives of the Ottoman elite turned her into an avid admirer of Oriental culture, and would go on to shape one of the most enduring stereotypes about the Balkans as part of the Orient.

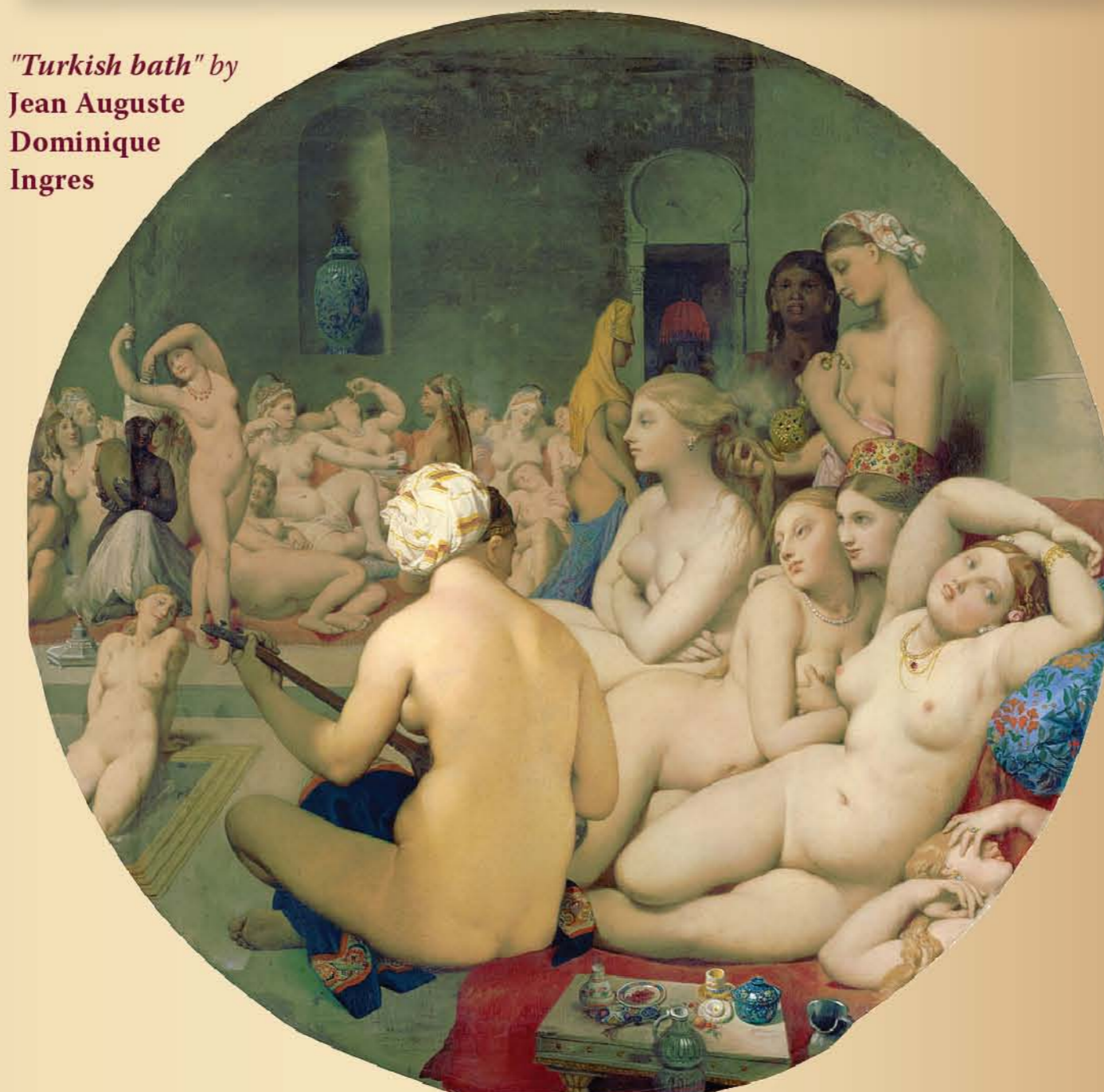
Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, *An odalisque* (female member of a harem) reclines exposed in the harem listening to a servant's lute music. This painting was commissioned by King Wilhelm I of Württemberg and was executed by Ingres with the assistance of his pupil Paul Flandrin. This exotic composition was inspired by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's *Turkish Letters* (1763).



Title page of the third edition of Letters - London, 1763

„... The first sofas were covered with cushions and rich carpets, on which sat the ladies; and on the second, their slaves behind them, but without any distinction of rank by their dress, all being in the state of nature, that is, in plain English, stark naked, without any beauty or defect concealed... They walked and moved with the same majestic grace, which Milton describes our general mother with. There were many amongst them, as exactly proportioned as ever any goddess was drawn by the pencil of a Guido or Titian...“

„Turkish bath“ by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres



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„This later painting by William Powell Frith depicts the moment after Alexander Pope declared his ardent love to Lady Mary. She has burst into a fit of laughter. He sits in pain, his pride hurt. William Powell Frith, Pope makes love to Lady Mary Montagu, 1852. Print from oil on canvas original at Auckland City Art Gallery.“

„After four days journey from this place over the mountains, we came to Sophia, situated in a large beautiful plain on the river Isca, and surrounded with distant mountains. 'Tis hardly possible to see a more agreeable landscape. The city itself is very large, and extremely populous. Here are hot baths, very famous for their medicinal virtues.“

„A propos of distempers, I am going to tell you a thing that will make you wish yourself here. The small-pox, so fatal, and so general amongst us, is here entirely harmless, by the invention of ingrafting, which is the term they give it. There is a set of old women, who make it their business to perform the operation, every autumn, in the month of September, when the great heat is abated. [...]"

I am patriot enough to take pains to bring this useful invention into fashion in England; and I should not fail to write to some of our doctors very particularly about it, if I knew any one of them that I thought had virtue enough to destroy such a considerable branch of their revenue, for the good of mankind. But that distemper is too beneficial to them, not to expose to all their resentment the hardy wight that should undertake to put an end to it. Perhaps, if I live to return, I may, however, have courage to war with them.“

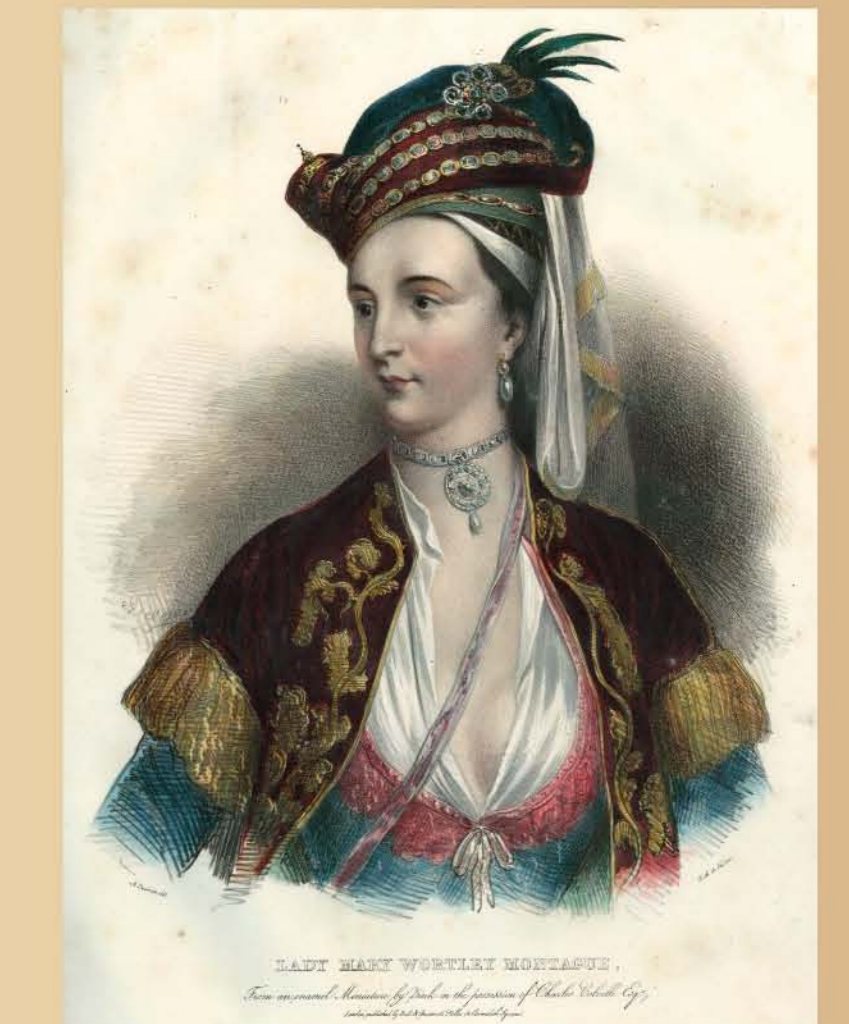


Lady Montagu in Turkish dress by Jean-Étienne Liotard, 1756, Palace on the Water in Warsaw

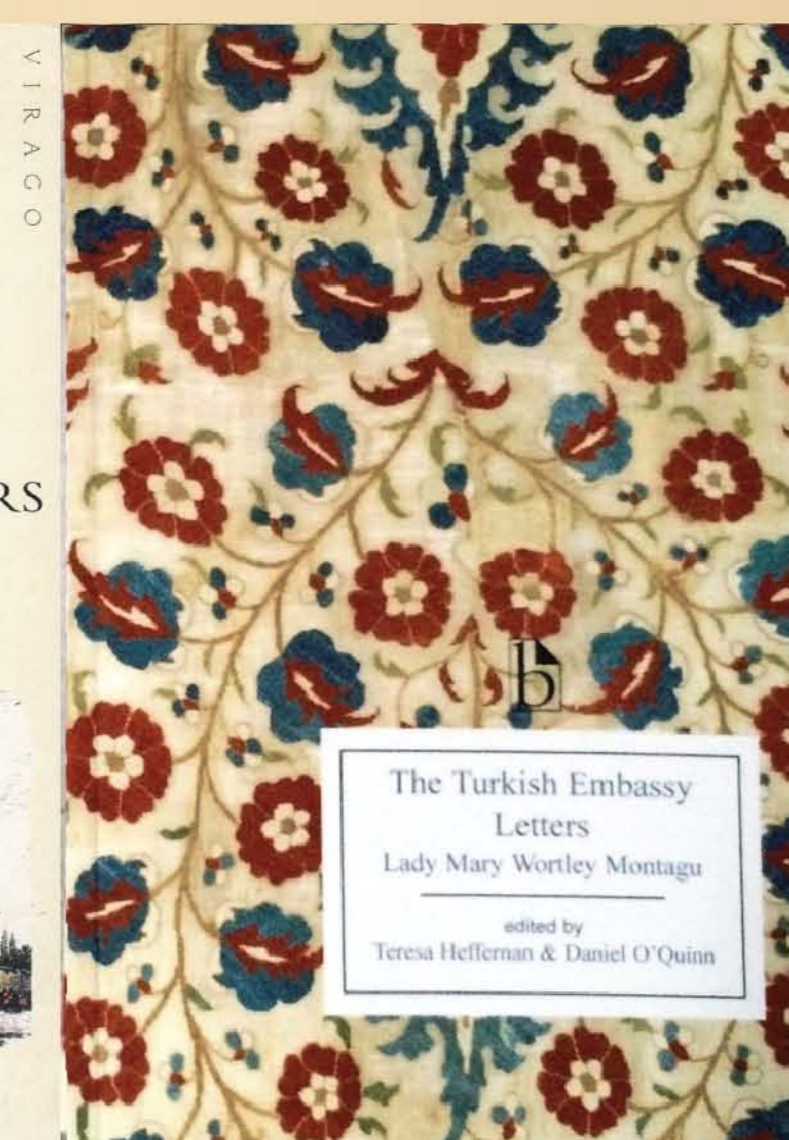
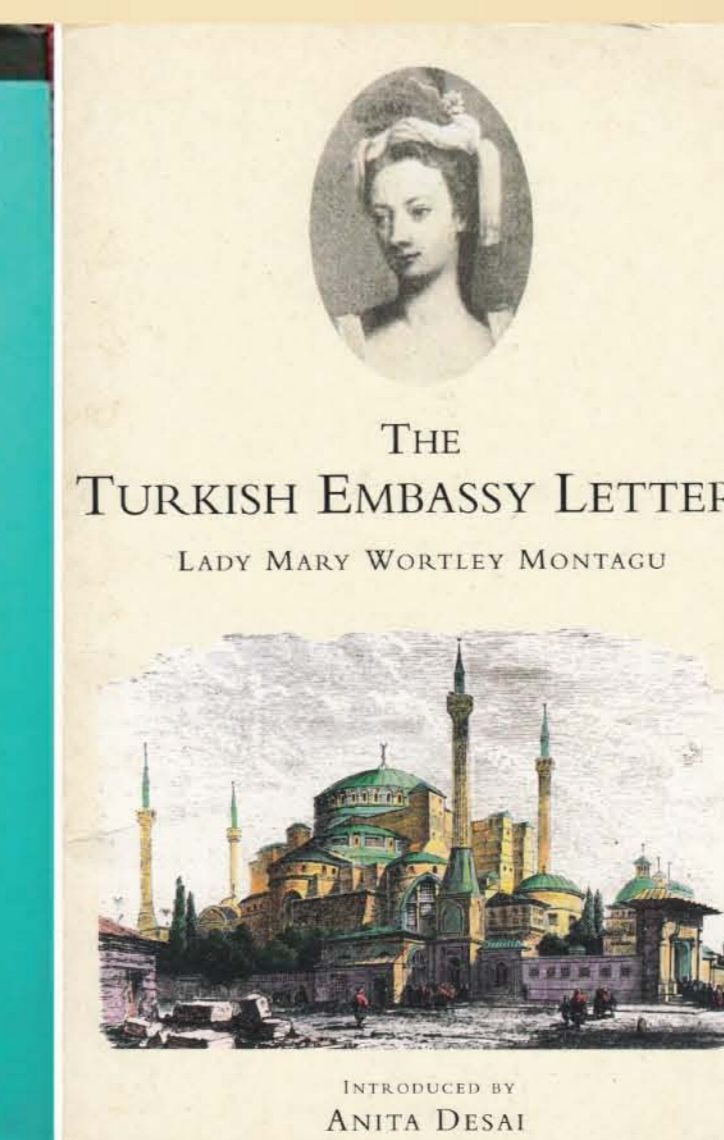
Mary Wortley Montagu, by Charles Jervas, after 1716



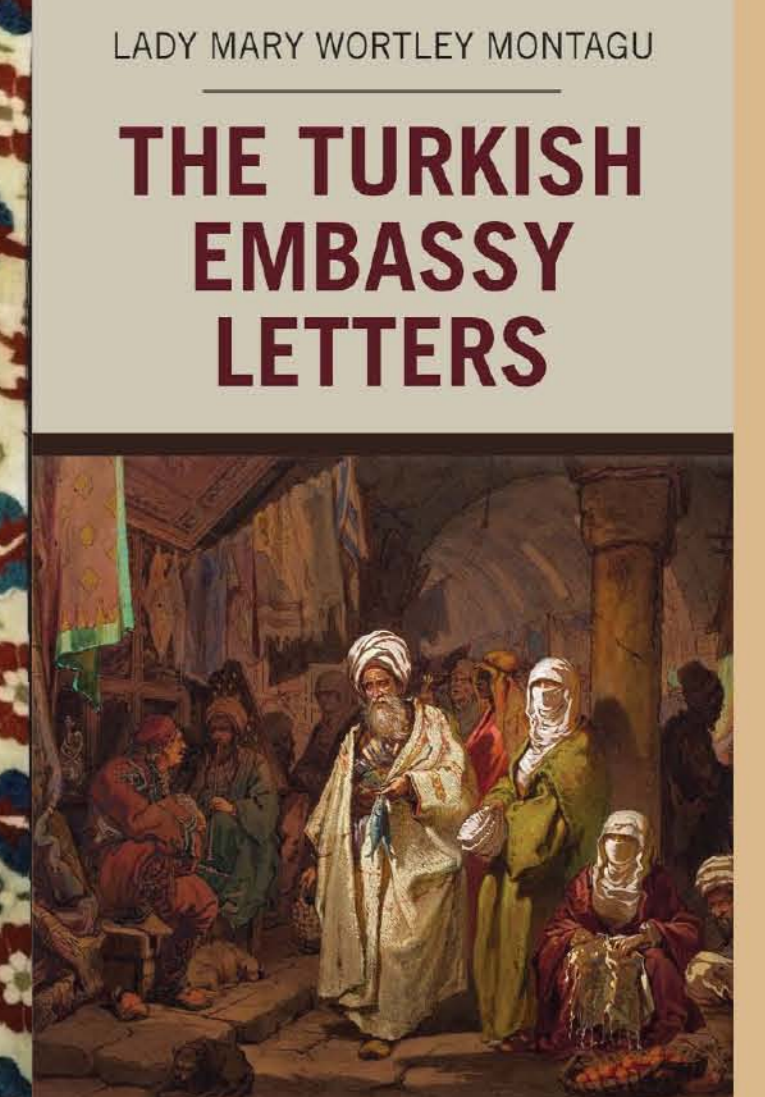
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu by Achille Devéria, after Christian Zincke, hand-coloured lithograph, 1830s, © National Portrait Gallery, London



„At these mountains we lay at the little village Kiskoi, wholly inhabited by Christians, as all the peasants of Bulgaria are... they have the liberty of sowing what they please, and are generally very industrious husbandmen. I drank here several sorts of delicious wine.“



Editions of "The Turkish Embassy Letters"



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Issue #1/2019

On Focus: the South Slavs – Georgina Mackenzie (1833 - 1874) and Paulina Irby (1833 - 1911) and "Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey-in-Europe (1867)"

Friends, travelers and accomplices: Georgina Mackenzie and Polina Irby bear the spirit of emerging feminism.

It all started with an arrest

As they wandered through the Mineral Baths of the Carpathians in 1857, Mackenzie and Irby were arrested by Austrian authorities on suspicion of pan-Slavic espionage. The misunderstanding quickly dissipated, but the event piqued the women's interest in the fate of Slavic nations under foreign domination.

In Focus: history and culture of the Southern Slavs

Mackenzie and Irby first drew the attention of the British public to the fate of oppressed Slavic peoples on the Balkan Peninsula by presenting their history and culture in the travel book "Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey-in-Europe" (1867).

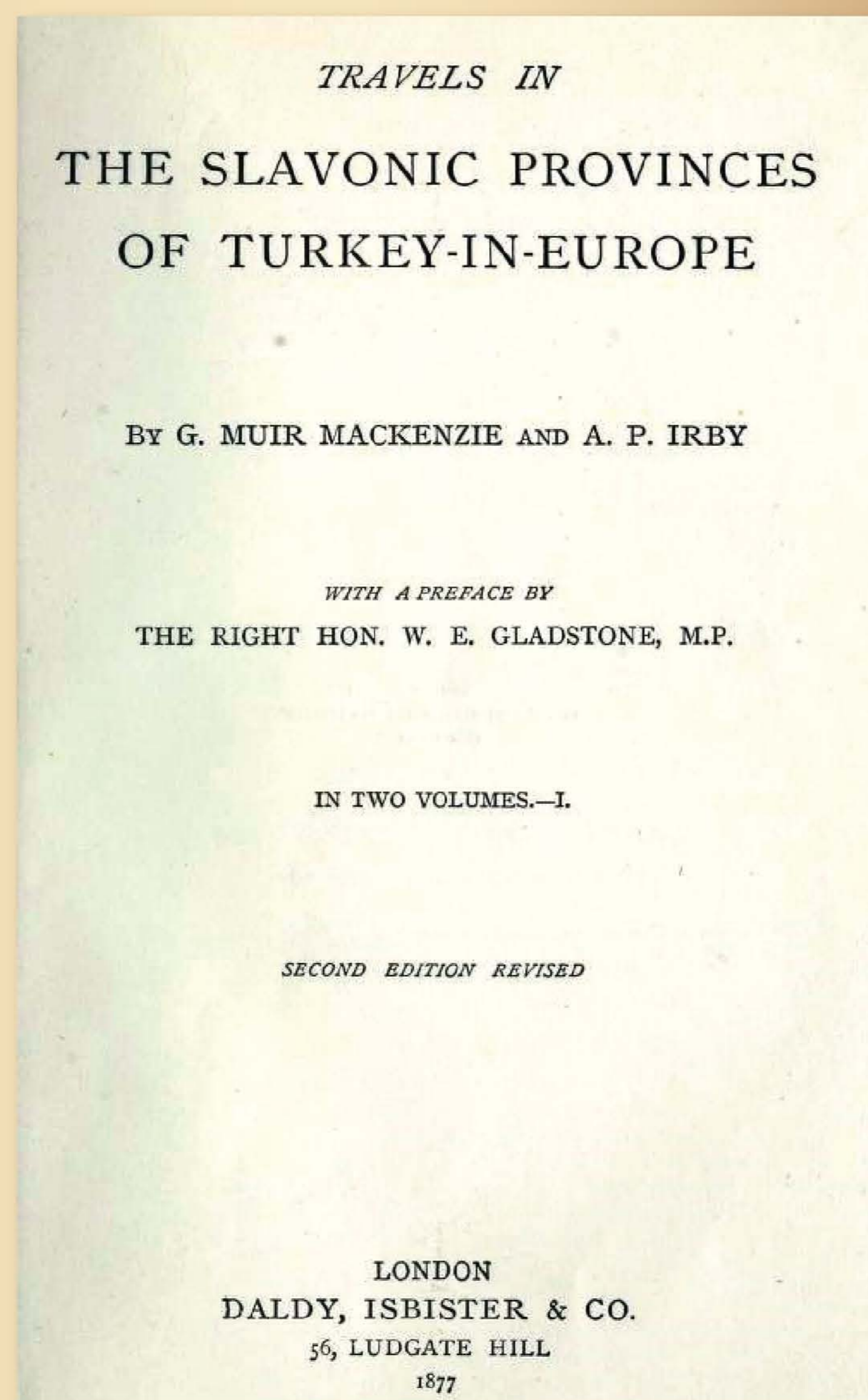
In defense of the Bulgarian national cause

Following revelations of Ottoman atrocities during Bulgaria's April Uprising of 1876, Irby partook in the campaign to defend the Bulgarian national cause in London.

Irby's heart forever remains in Bosnia

Mackenzie and Irby established in 1870, the first girls' school for the Christian population of European Turkey in Sarajevo. During the uprising in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1875 - 1878), Irby organized camps and hospitals for Bosnian refugees in Slavonia and Dalmatia. Irby died in 1911 in Sarajevo, bequeathing the entirety of her state for the purposes of furthering education in Bosnia.

"The first break in the prison was made by the [Greek] revolution at the beginning of this century. Free Greece, autonomous Serbia. May not Bulgaria have her turn? Gradually the wealthier Bulgarians sent their sons for education no longer to Constantinople, but to Russia, Bohemia, France. In the country itself were founded native schools; and even in districts already half-Hellenized the national spirit began to revive. Persons who used to write their own language in the Greek character learned late in life Slavonic alphabet, and we have ourselves seen parents who spoke Bulgarian imperfectly anxiously providing that their children should know it well."



Title page of the second edition of the book with a preface by William Gladstone

The Illustrations are from Original Sketches by F. KANTZ, Author of "Serbien," "Bulgarien," &c. The greater portion of the Text of the First Edition was Contributed by G. MUIR MACKENZIE, and has been Revised for this Edition by A. P. IRBY, who has added the Three Chapters: "Bosnia in 1875," "Journey in Bosnia in August, 1875," "Bosnia in 1876-7."



BULGARIAN PEASANTS, WITH BULGARIAN MERCHANT AND HIS SON WHO HAS SPENT SOME YEARS OUT OF TURKEY.

Captivated by the Balkans

The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)



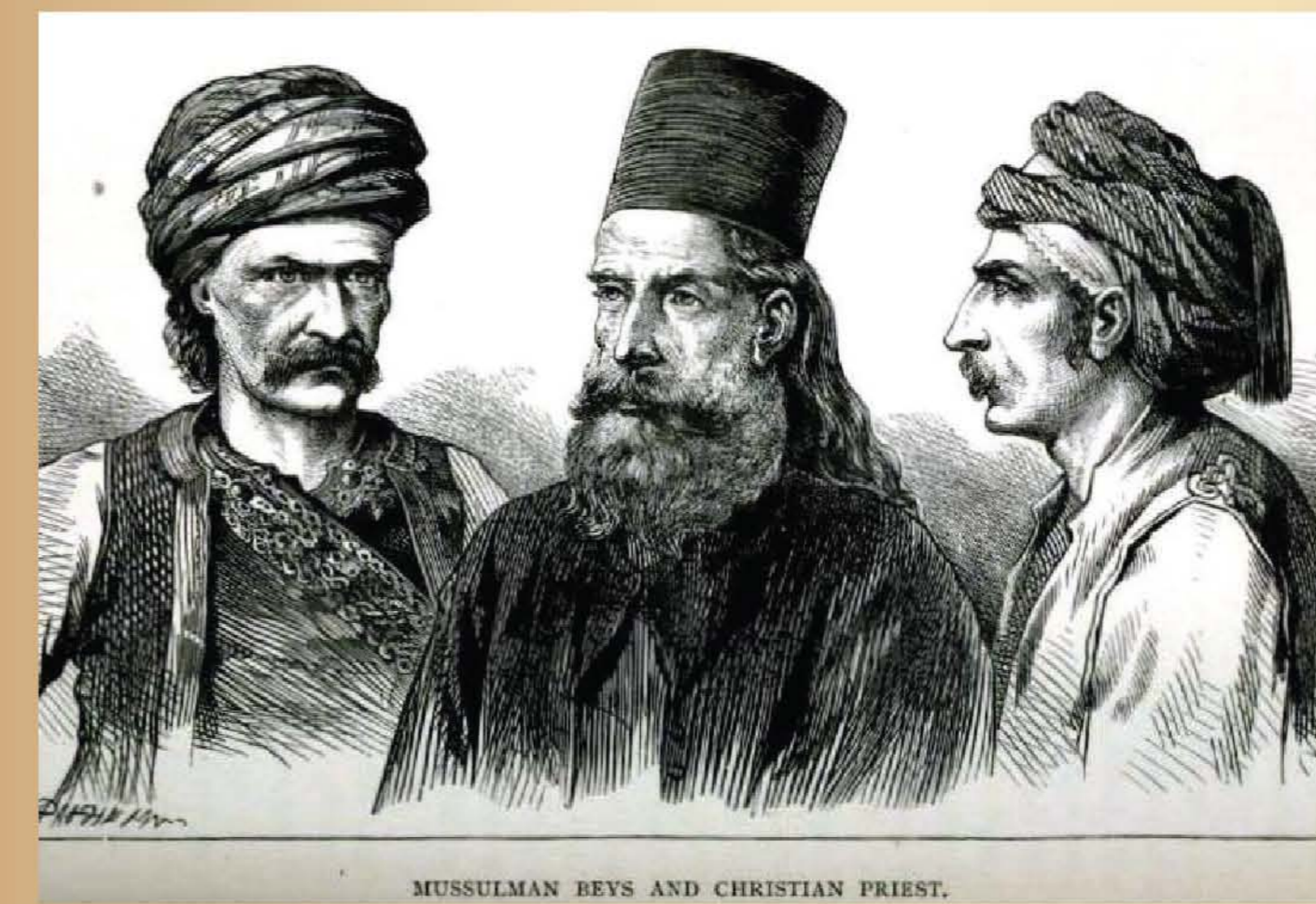
Lady Sebright, Georgina Muir Mackenzie



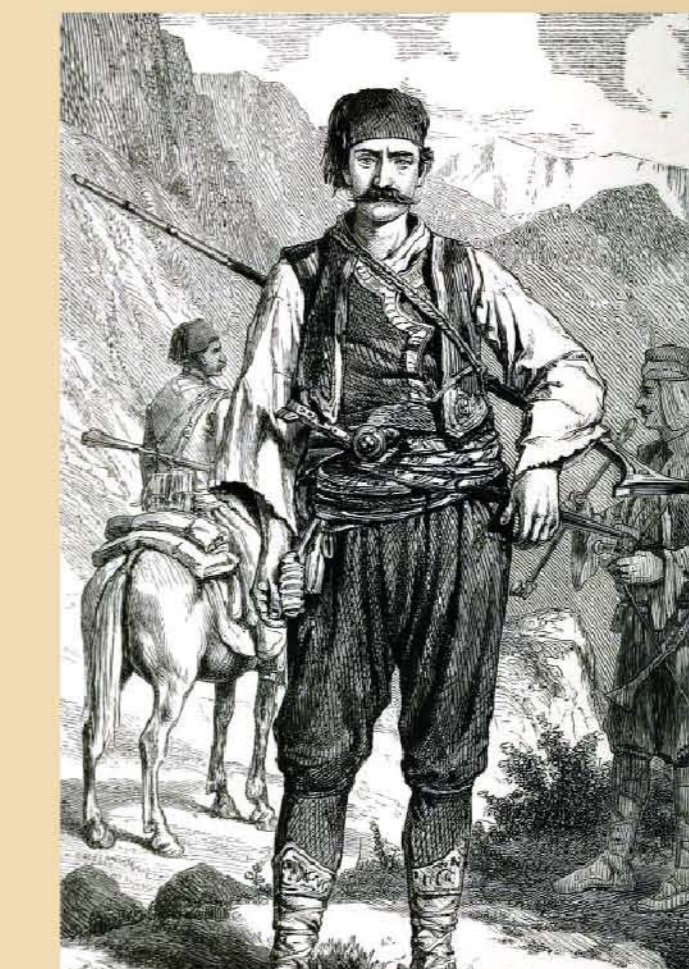
Adelina Paulina Irby



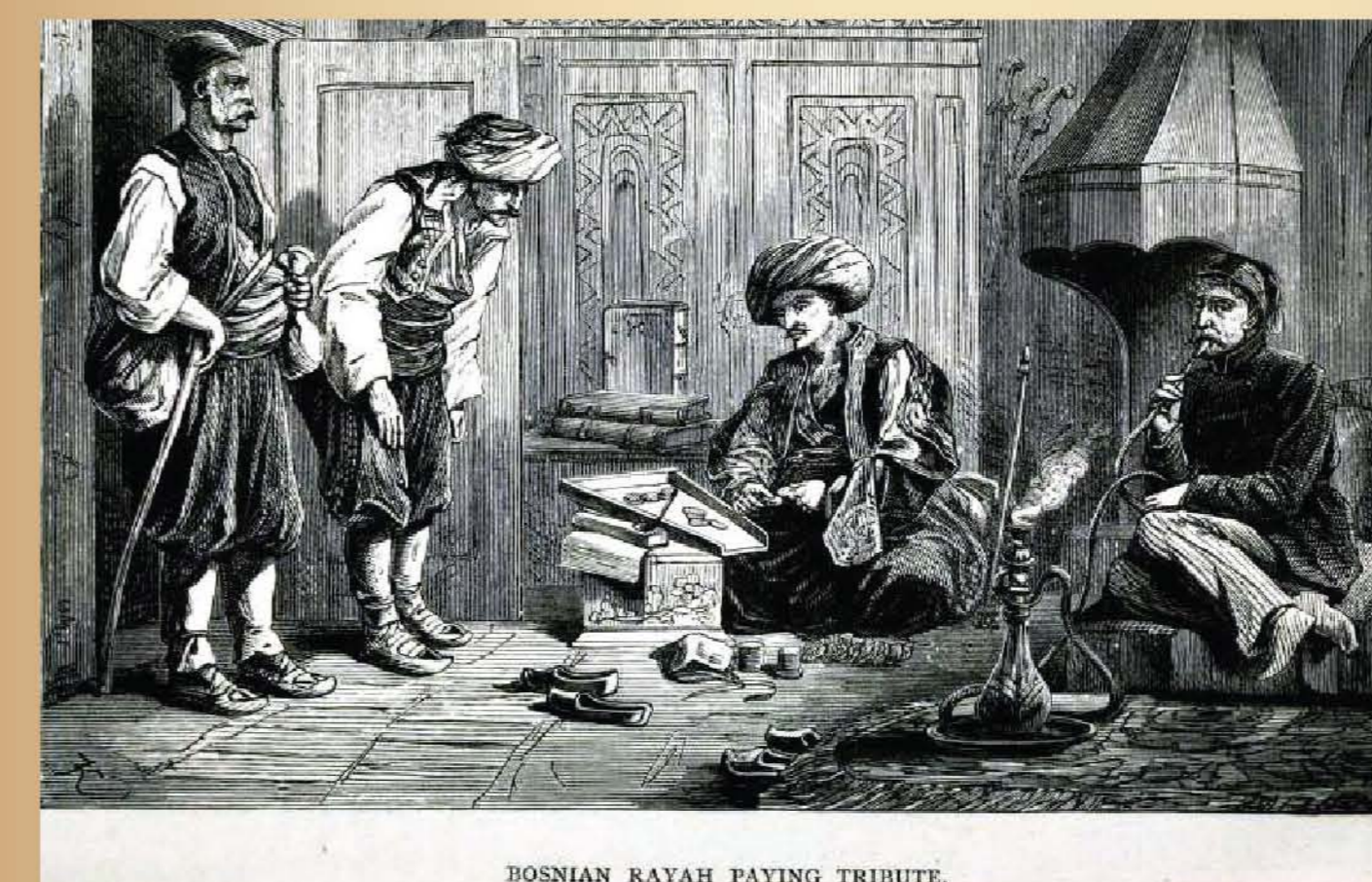
The gravestone of Adelina Paulina Irby in Sarajevo



MUSSULMAN BEYS AND CHRISTIAN PRIEST.



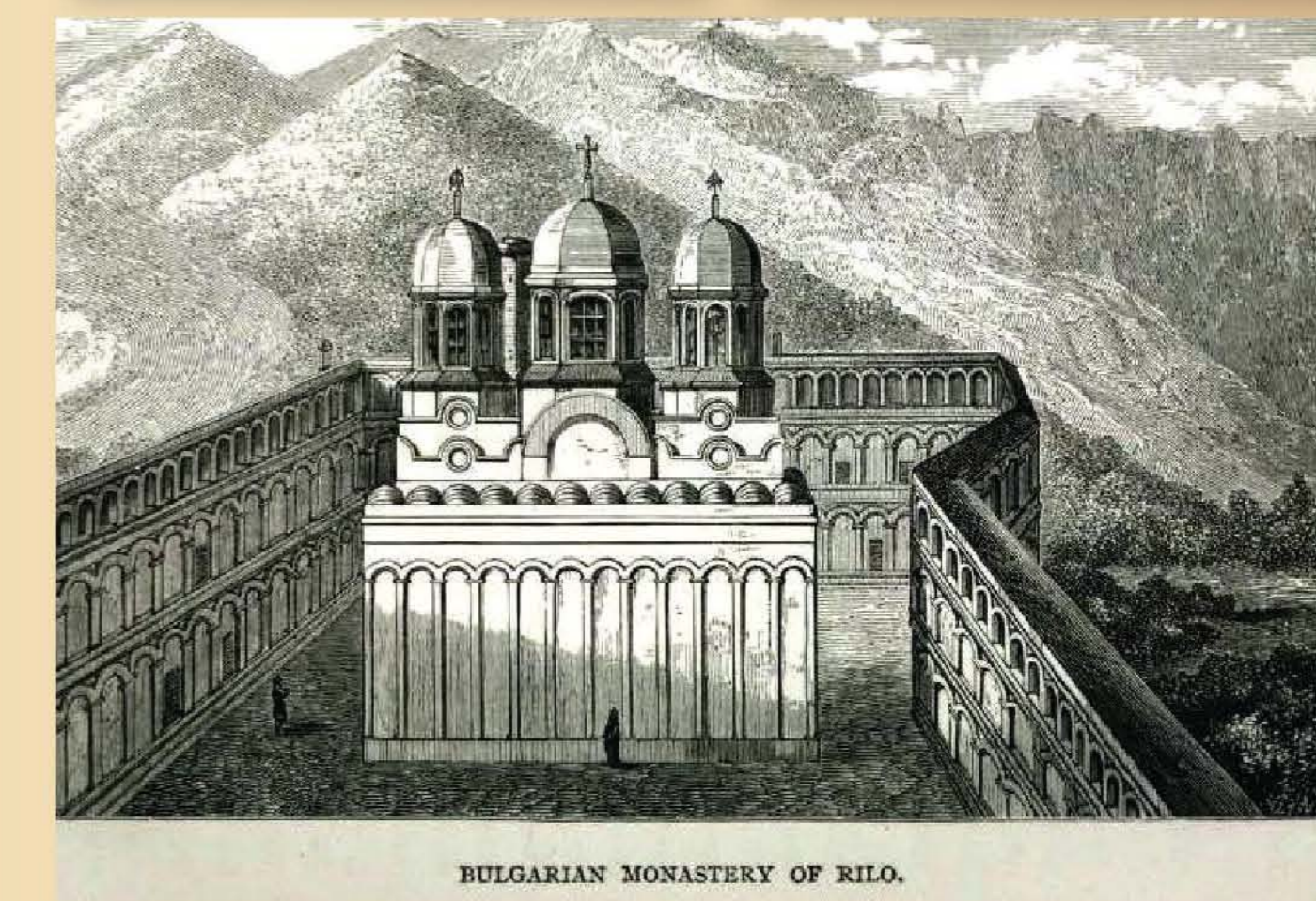
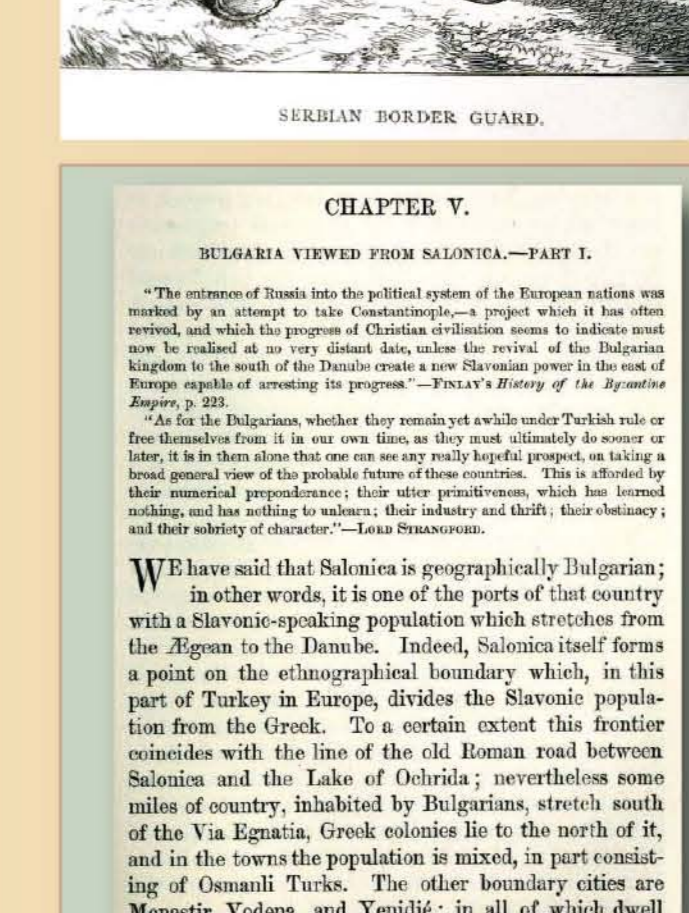
SERBIAN BORDER GUARD.



BOSNIAN RAYAH PAYING TRIBUTE.



SERBIAN PEASANTS AND CITIZENS OF A COUNTRY TOWN.



BULGARIAN MONASTERY OF RIL.

"...Miss Irby, in the new edition of her work, has supplied illustrations of very great interest and importance. Although a considerable portion of the Metropolitan daily press systematically suppresses the too copious evidence of continuing Turkish outrages in Bulgaria, this portion cannot control its remaining organs, and it has become generally known that the reign of terror is still prolonged in that unhappy Province, and that what was done last May to hundreds and thousands is still, and daily, done to units, or fives, or tens. If the tempest has passed by, the swell still continues. Ottoman security is felt to depend upon keeping alive in the mind of the subject races the memory of the great massacres; for on the mirror of the past is drawn the image of the future. The work of Miss Irby, with the chapters she has added, widens our perspective. I have myself stated, months back, to the public that, while we were venting indignation about Bulgaria, the Turk was doing the very same foul work, though not on the same imperial scale, in Bosnia."

From the Preface by W. E. Gladstone

CHAPTER IX.

THE BULGARIAN TOWNS OF PHILIP AND VELES.

THE distance from Monastir to Philip is estimated at about six hours, and six very long hours it took us to jog over the rough and dusty plain that separates the two towns. Nevertheless, this road is really traversable for a carriage without fear of accident, and that is saying more for it than can be said for the road between Philip and Veles.

On the outskirts of Monastir we passed a church lately built by the Bulgarians for themselves, but in which, as we have since heard, the bishop insists on performing service in Greek. However, halfway between Monastir and Philip, one crosses the stream of the Tzerna Hloka (Black river), and at every step on the other side, the Greek-Tzintzar almost becomes weaker, and the Bulgarians have got more and more the upper hand both in church and school.

As to probably impartial judges, we appealed to the opinion of foreign residents; these, especially French, British, and American, gave their verdict for the Bulgarians. British consuls assured us they were astonished to find a population in Turkey so industrious, thrifty, moral, and clean. As for the Americans, in a quiet way they are the best friends the Bulgarians have. Their eminent scholar, Dr. Riggs, has rendered the Old Testament from ancient into modern Slavonic, and numerous school-books have been translated from the English; American schools are in the Bulgarian principal towns, and their books are sold by native schoolmasters in several parts of the country.

During our own travels we saw proofs enough that the people are trying to improve, and we were especially struck with their eagerness for education. The mountain chains of the Balkan and the Rhodope divide Bulgaria into three sections—northern, central, and southern. Of the northern district, between the Balkan and the Thule, we cannot speak for eye-witness, as the Turks declared it too disturbed for travellers; but we rely on the authority of persons who have lived there, that those Bulgarians who grow up with the great water-way of commerce on one side of them and their natural mountain fortresses on the other are more independent and enterprising than their brethren on the inland plains. Here, too, the people maintain numerous schools, of which the best are at Tirnova and Shumla. Tirnova, the ancient capital, is the site proposed for an ecclesiastical seminary, and if possible for a printing press, both of which the jealousy of the Porte as yet denies.

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Issue #1/2019

Swimming against the current: Mary Edith Durham (1863 – 1944) and „The Burden of the Balkans” (1905)

At the age of 37, the fate of a well-educated but unmarried Edith Durham seemed to have been pre-determined by her relatives – she was expected to care for her sick mother in return for a comfortable, if monotonous existence in London. Durham rebelled abruptly, securing a “sabbatical” for herself during which she made her first trip by sea from Trieste along the coast of Dalmatia to Montenegro. Her life was forever changed by her first encounter with the Balkan Peninsula.

Traveler, writer, humanitarian worker, war correspondent

Edith Durham did not settle for the role of an ordinary traveling lady. She studied the lifestyle and folklore of the Balkan peoples, and throughout the two Balkan wars (1912 - 1913) informed the European press about events in the region, while setting up hospitals and refugee camps.

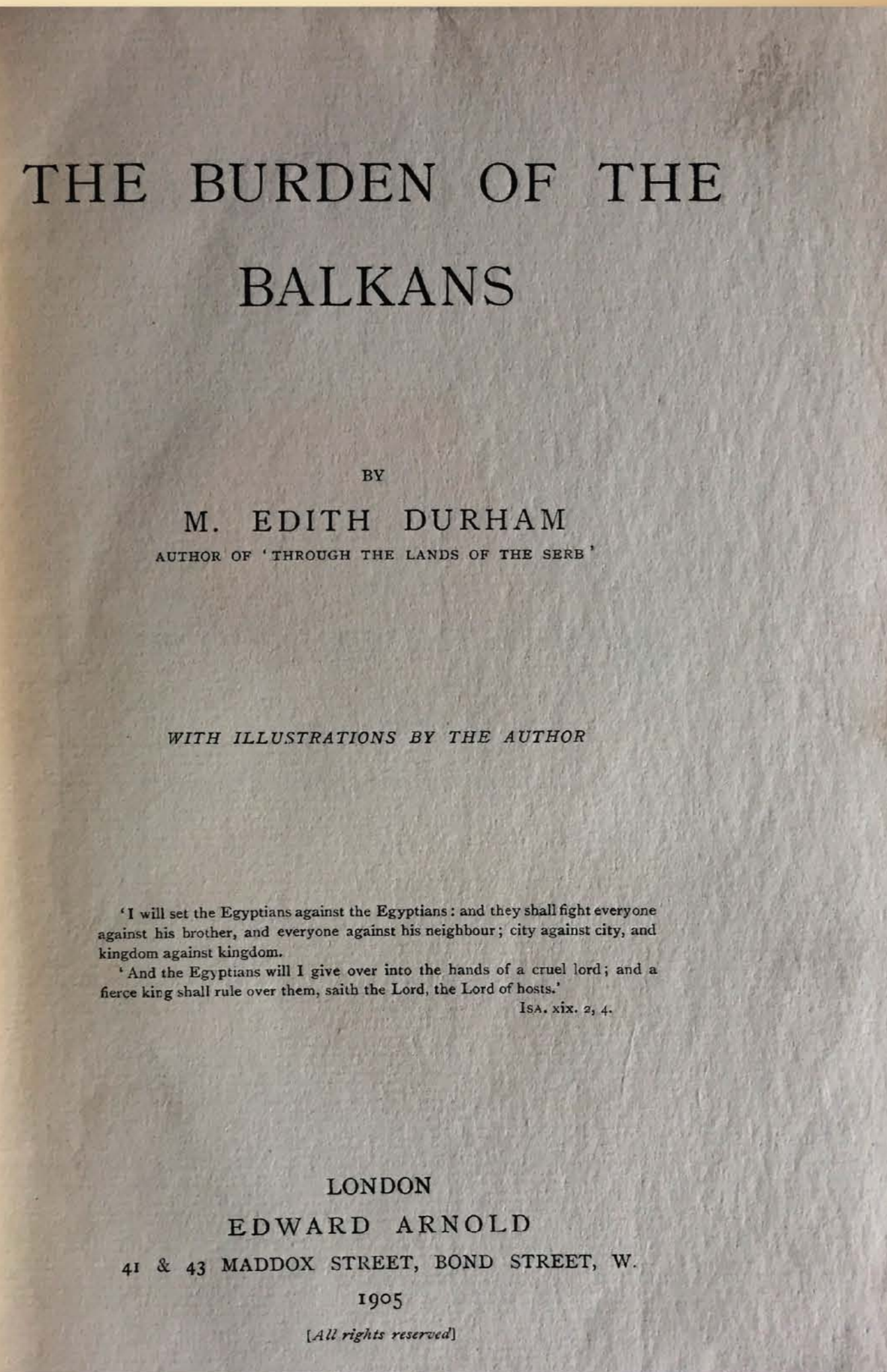
“Queen of the Albanian Highlands”

Her humanitarian activity among Albanian refugees, her fierce defense of the Albanian national cause within British society and her tireless support for the establishment of the young Albanian state earned her the respect of the Albanian population, along with the nickname “Queen of the Albanian Highlands”.

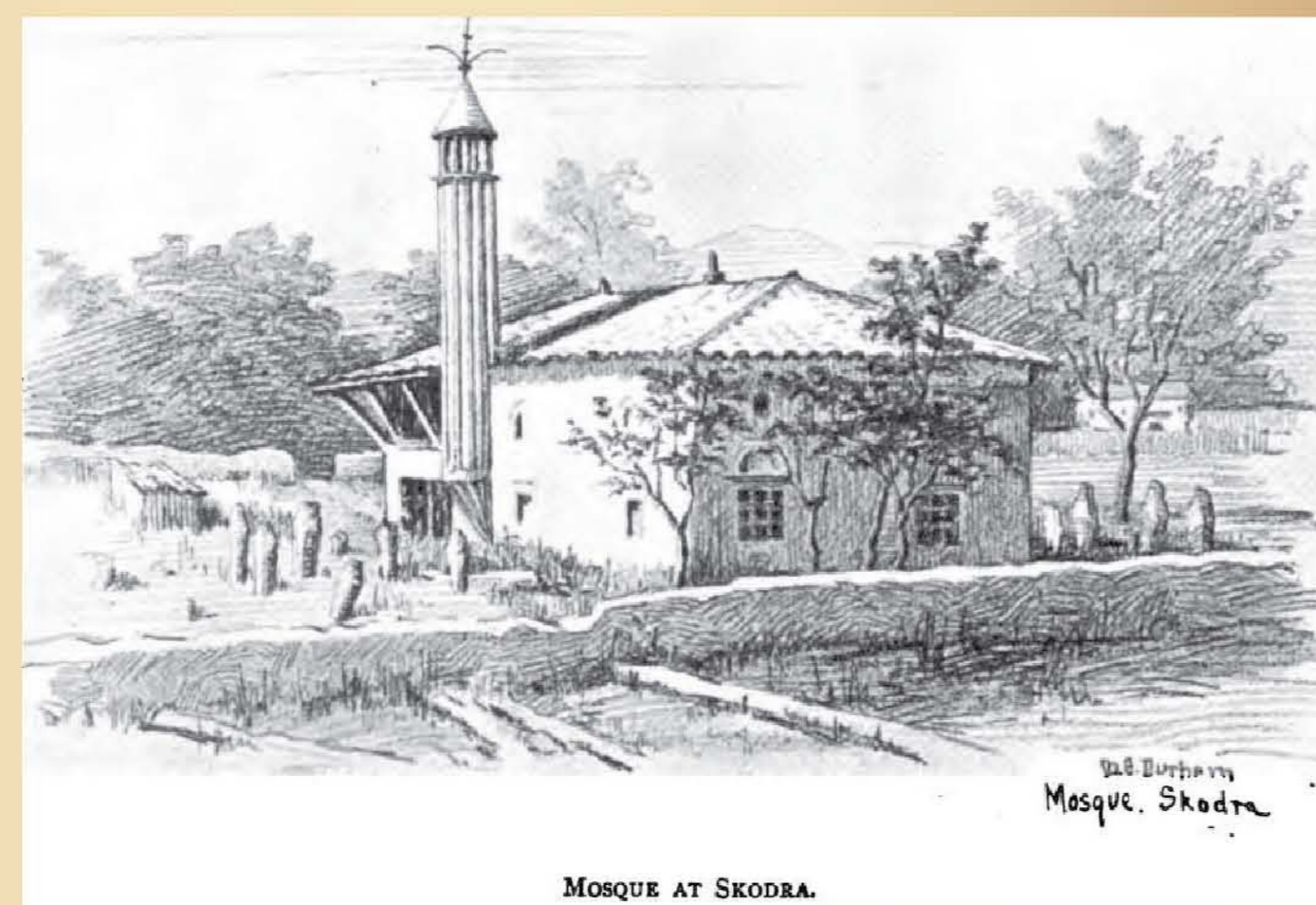
“The Burden of the Balkans” (1905)

This is the story of Edith Durham's travels through Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Albania in her characteristic black-and-white style, illustrated with sketches by the author and featuring a slogan alluding to future fratricidal wars in the troubled region.

“And alone, of all the Balkan peoples, the Albanian is an artist. His peculiarly indomitable personality always brings him prominently forward. When he ceases to obtain money by fighting he does so by commerce. He owns half the shops of Cetinje, and you may find him driving a flourishing trade all the way up the Dalmatian coast, and also in Italy, and Bosnia. Commercial travelers who have to do with him will tell you that he understands business, and is reliable. He has, it appears, only to live in decent Government to prosper.”



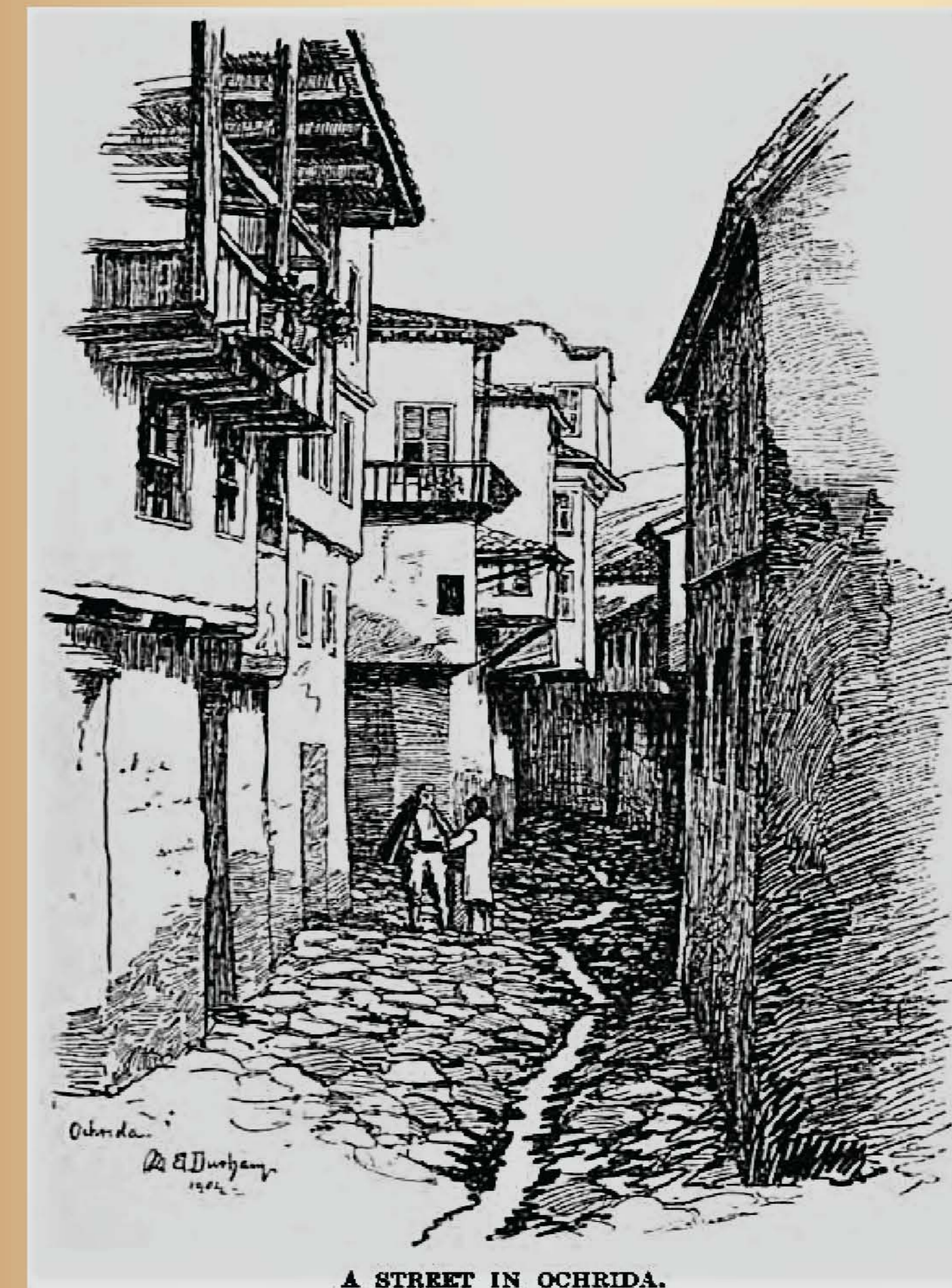
Title page of the book



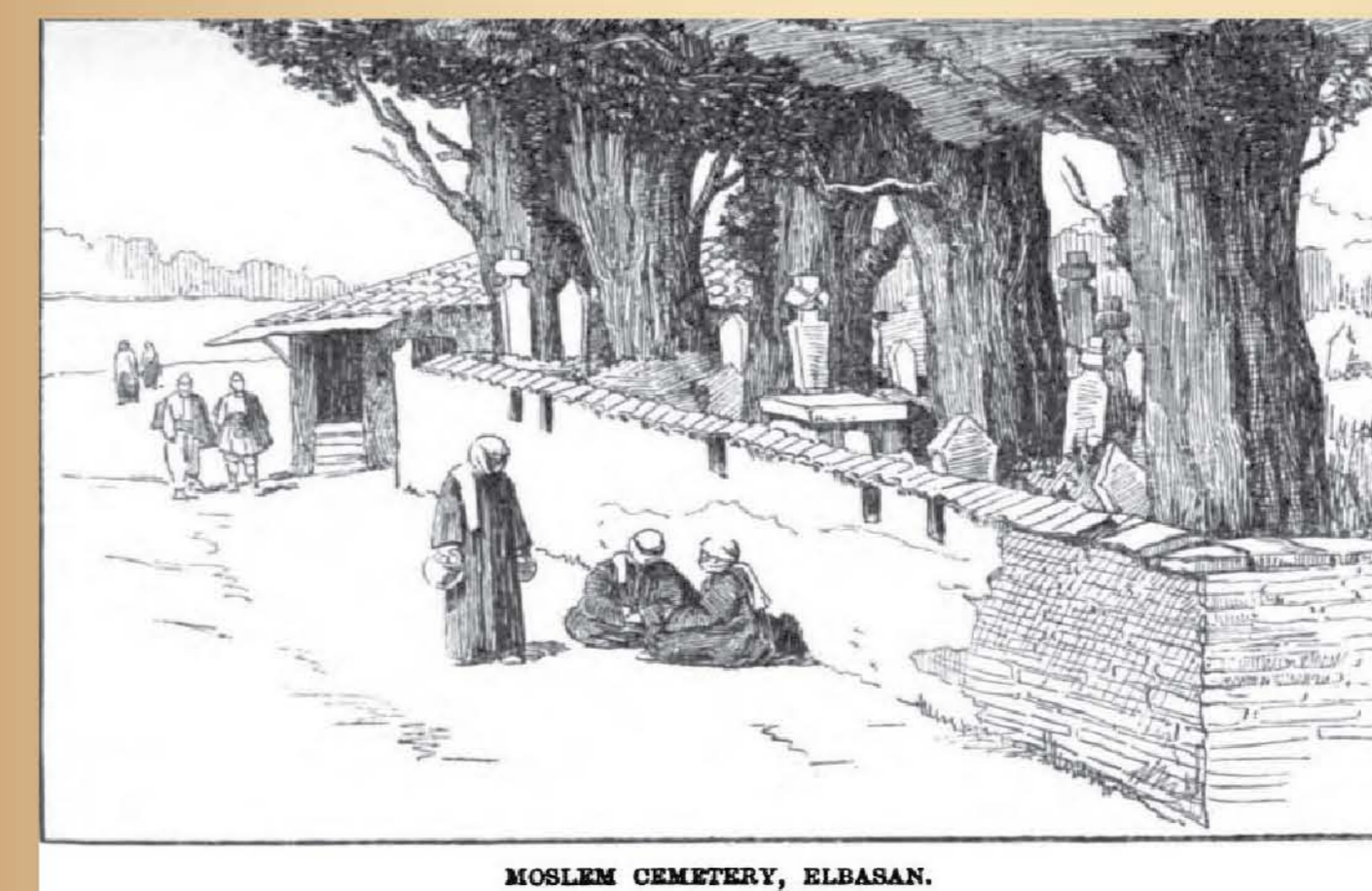
“Many women had not heard of their husbands for years, the gentlemen in question having gone to Roumania or Bulgaria in search of work. It was taken for granted that they have all married again, and would never come back. Their wives, however, were unable to follow their example, as divorces are not sold to women. The women employed as servants in the hospital [in Ohrid], were all in this unpleasant predicament...”

Captivated by the Balkans

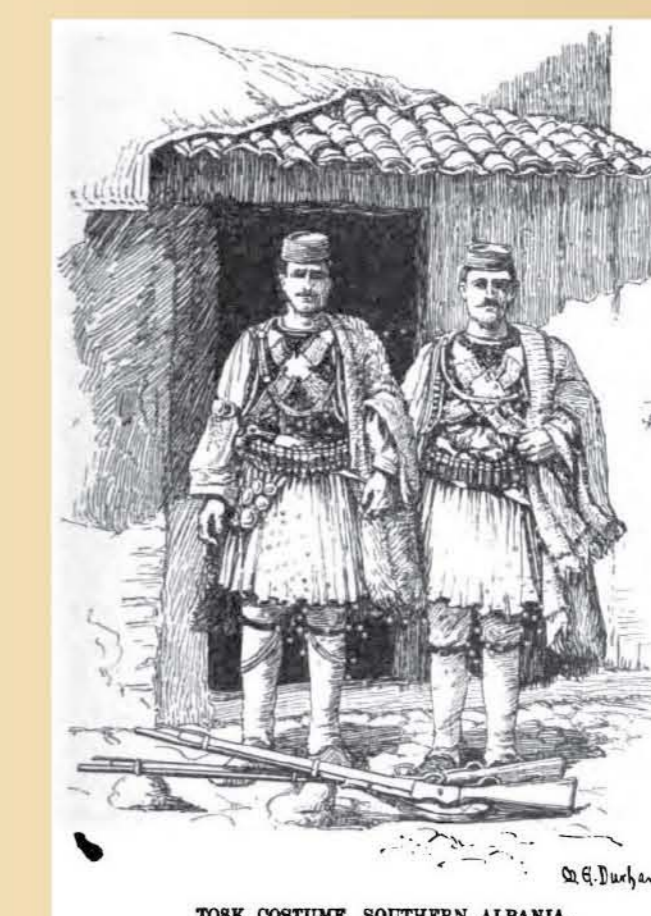
The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)



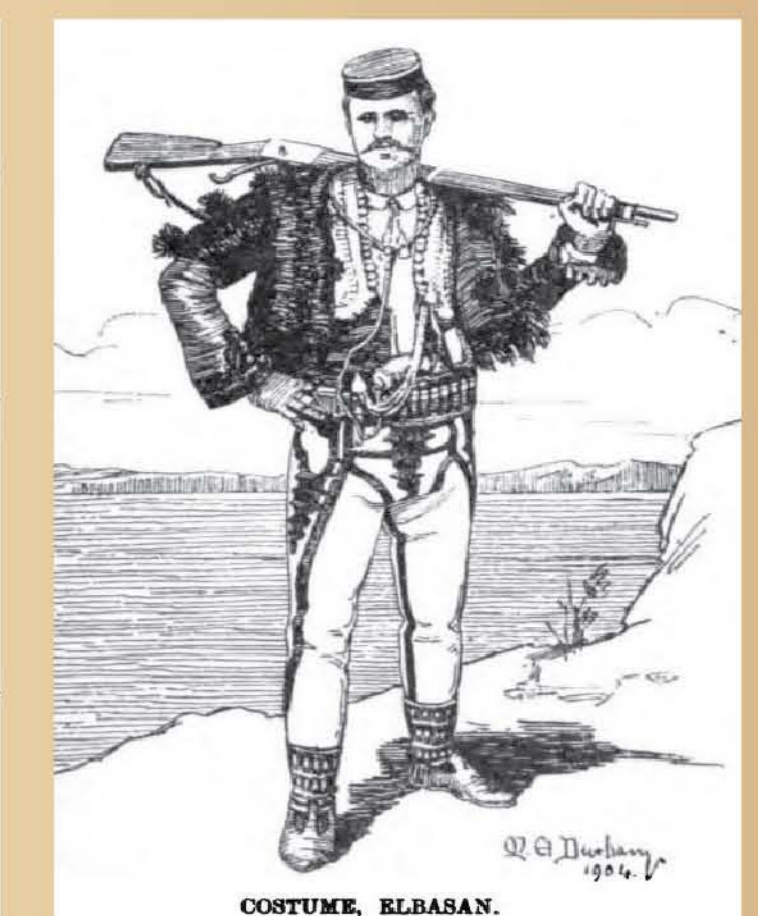
A STREET IN OHRIDA.



MOSLEM CEMETERY, ELBASAN.

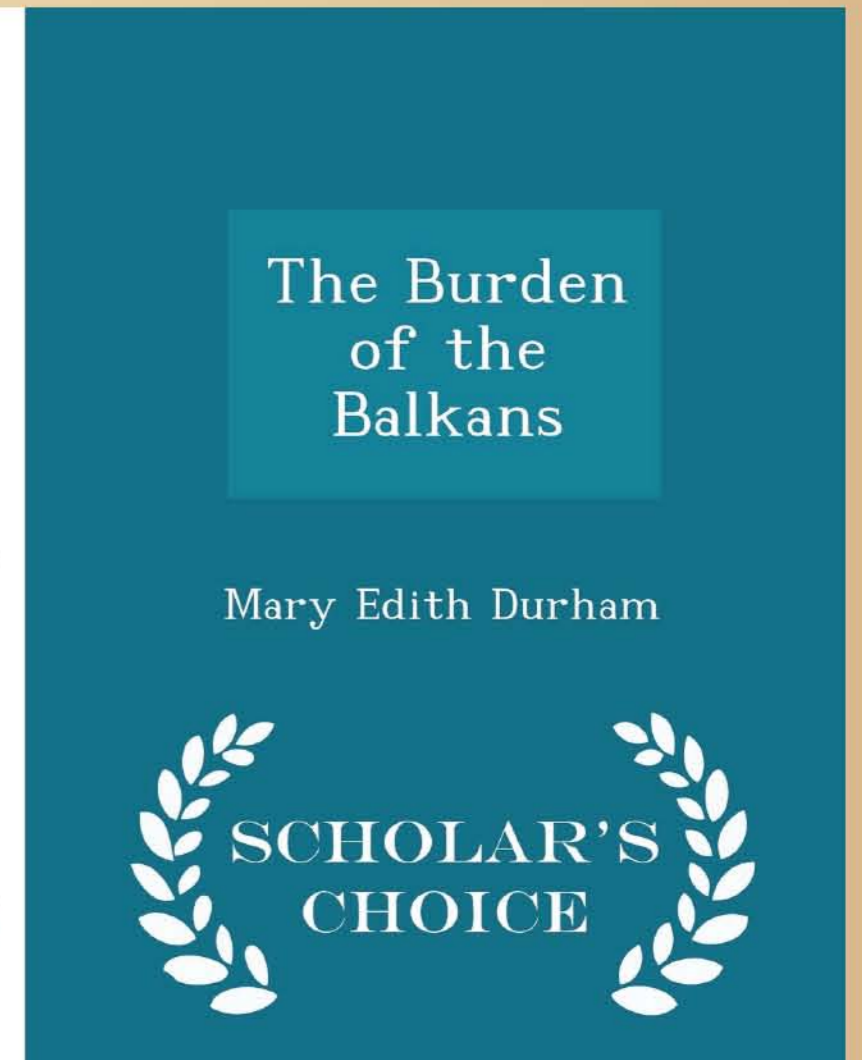
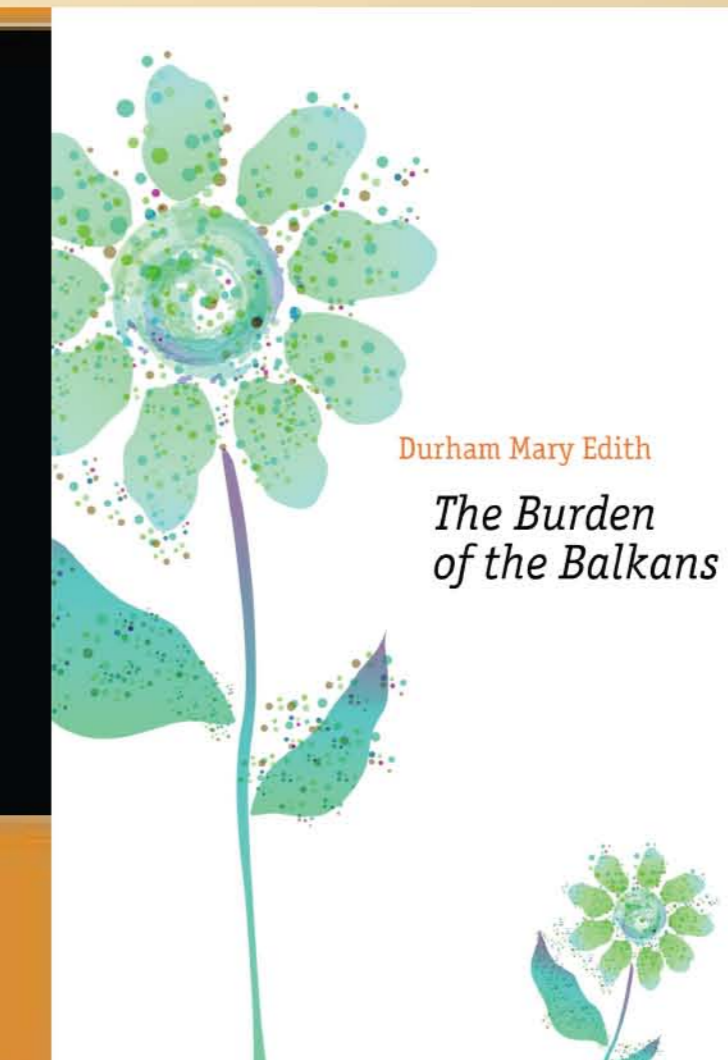
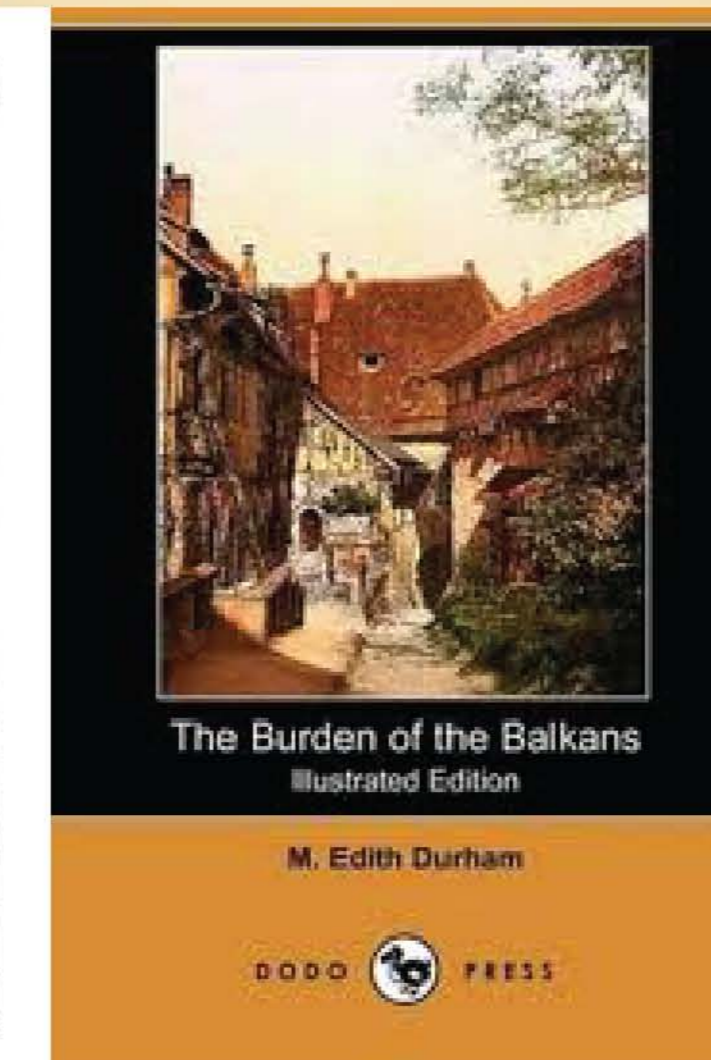
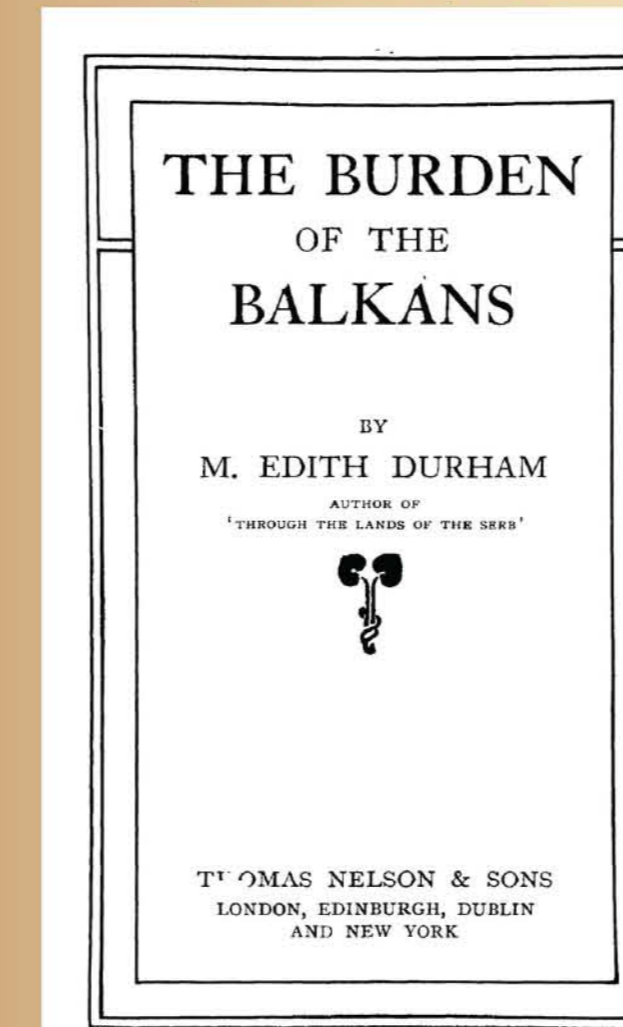


TASK COSTUME, SOUTHERN ALBANIA.



COSTUME, ELBASAN.

Editions of "The Burden of the Balkans"



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Issue #1/2019

A snapshot on the eve of World War I: Mrs. William Gordon and „A Woman in the Balkans” (1916)

Winifred Gordon's surroundings are better known than the woman herself. Both her brother – an air force pilot and diplomat, and her husband – a medical doctor, were members of the Royal Geographical Society since the late 19th century.

Mrs. Wil. Gordon, F.R.G.S. (1915)

Contrary to feminist ideas, Winifred Gordon signed her books using her husband's name (her own name appears only on the cover of current editions). But in the footsteps of this reverence for tradition, the name was proudly followed by the abbreviation F.R.G.S., denoting her as a member of the Royal Geographical Society. Gordon was awarded the recognition in 1915, two years following the permanent lift on a ban on women's regular admission into the organisation, and following her travels through Korea, Japan, Mexico, East Africa, and the Balkans.

“A Woman in the Balkans”: a snapshot on the eve of World War I

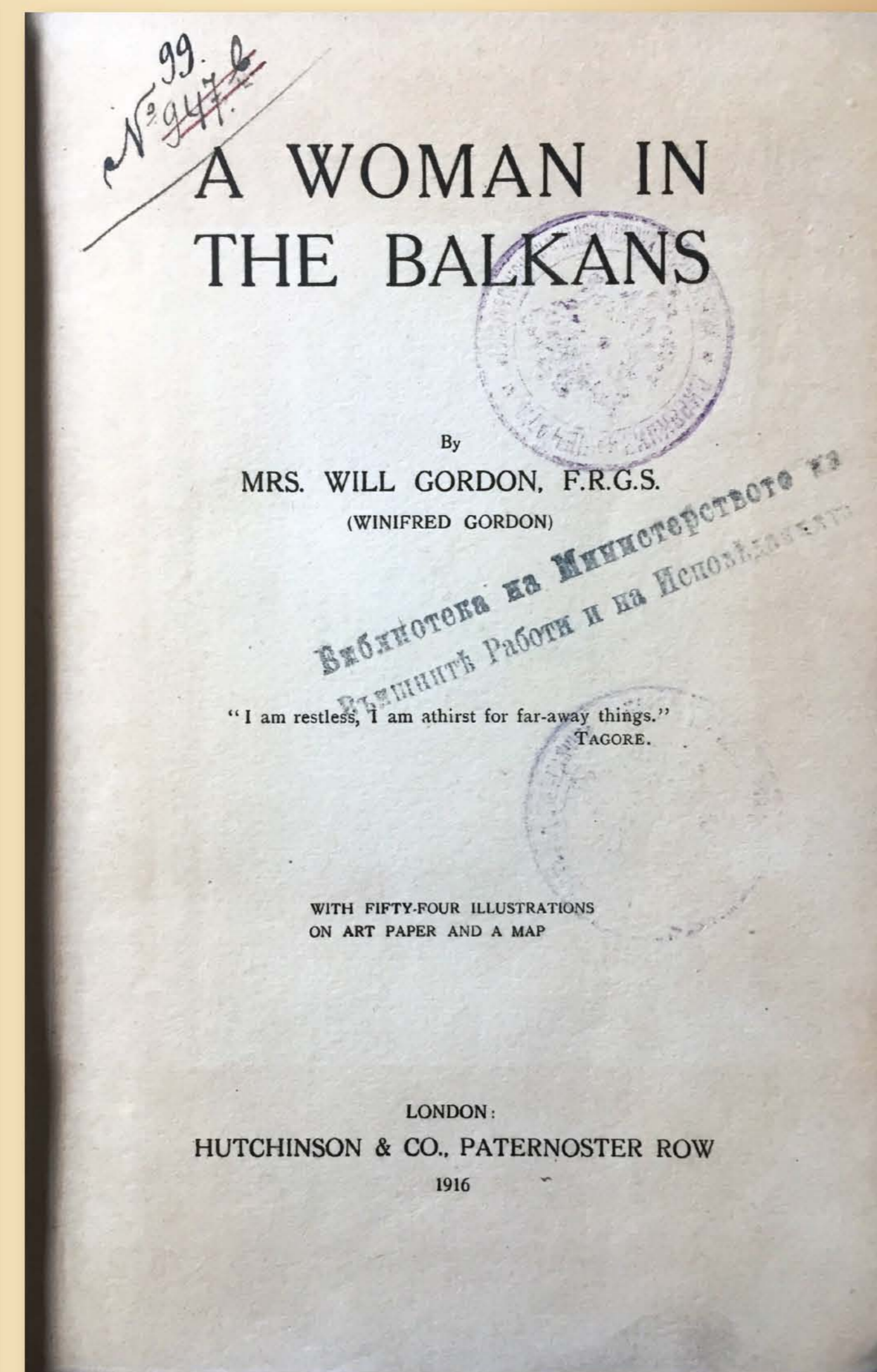
In the spring of 1914, Winifred Gordon and her husband toured the countries of the Balkan Peninsula. Their itinerary included meetings with representatives of the palace, intellectual and political elites of every Balkan country, along with visits to places of interest and historical sites. Gordon's travel book "A Woman in the Balkans" was published at the height of the First World War, and bears the imprint of wartime bias.

„The Bulgarians are a frugal, hard-working, sober race“

“Their fare is the simplest, meat is only eaten on festival days, and their ordinary diet consists of porridge made of maize, rye/bread, beans and often vegetables, soup, eggs and sometimes a home-made wine, called “raki”, also the famous “yoghourt”, or sour milk, so well-known by Professor Metchnikoff theory of sturdy health and long life it brings... certainly, one sees a sturdy, muscular race, thriving on “yoghourt”, and very old people of 114 and 116 are not uncommon in the country districts...”

“The women work in the fields and farm nearly as hard as the men, and a girl's marriage will often be postponed for years by the selfish desire of her parents not to lose her services.

In the case of marriage the would-be Benedict has to pay quite a good sum of money to the father of the bride before he can secure her as wife, the amount ranging from £20 to £200 according to the ability or position of his bride, while her parents provide her with her trousseau.”



Title page of the book



„The contradictions in their nature, if any, may be ascribed to a somewhat complex national character, with its mixture of Latin and Oriental influence and its sprinkling of Greek culture.”

“Like the Irish... they are lively, sensitive and emotional. Their enthusiasm is really awakened... In the endurance of pain or suffering the Serb is stoic.”

Captivated by the Balkans

The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)



An Eleven-Span Greek Bridge, 500 years old.



A daily incident. SCENES IN ALBANIA.

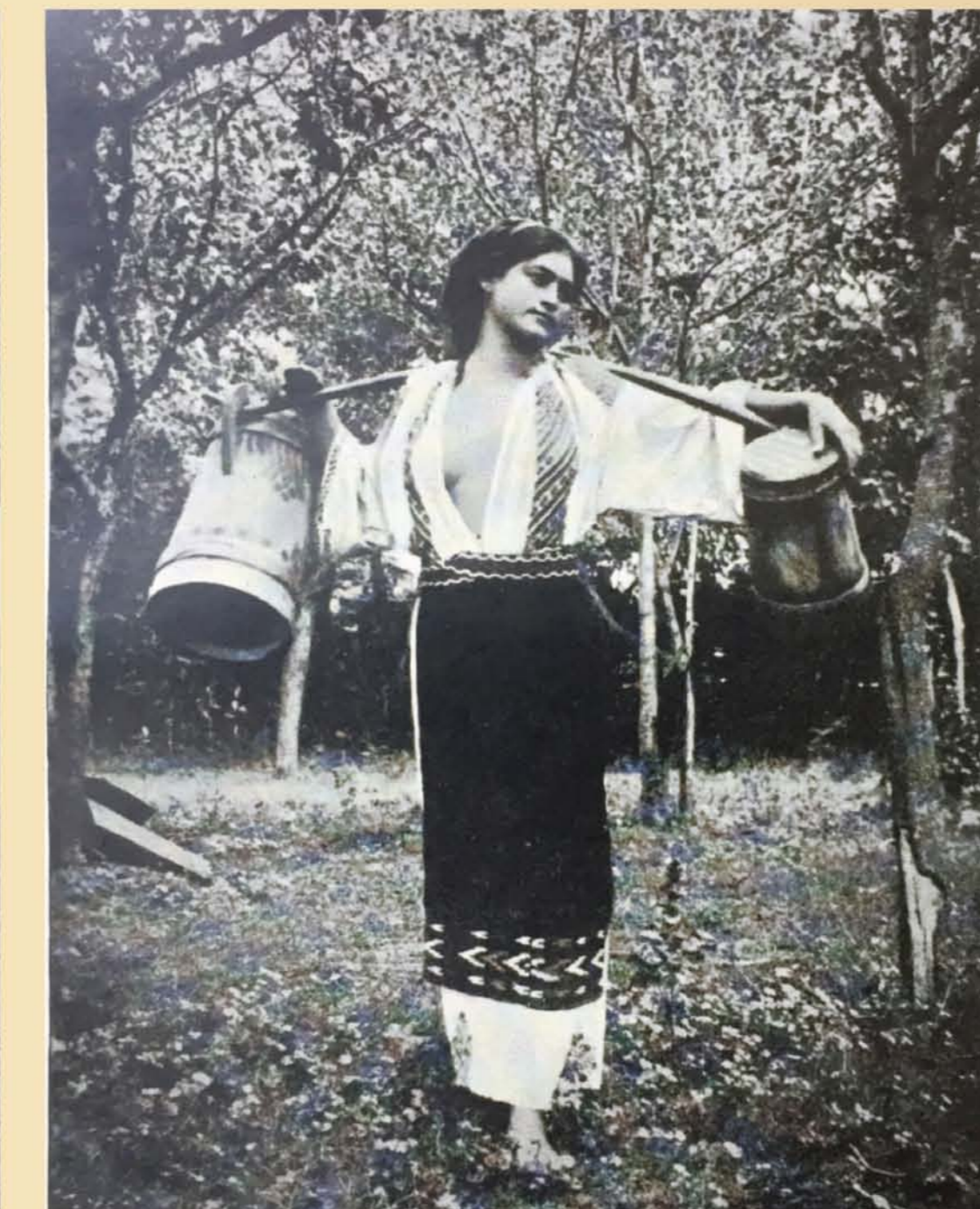


Photo by

Roumanian Milkmaid.



Mrs. Winifred Gordon, F.R.G.S.



Bulgarian Farmers' Wives.

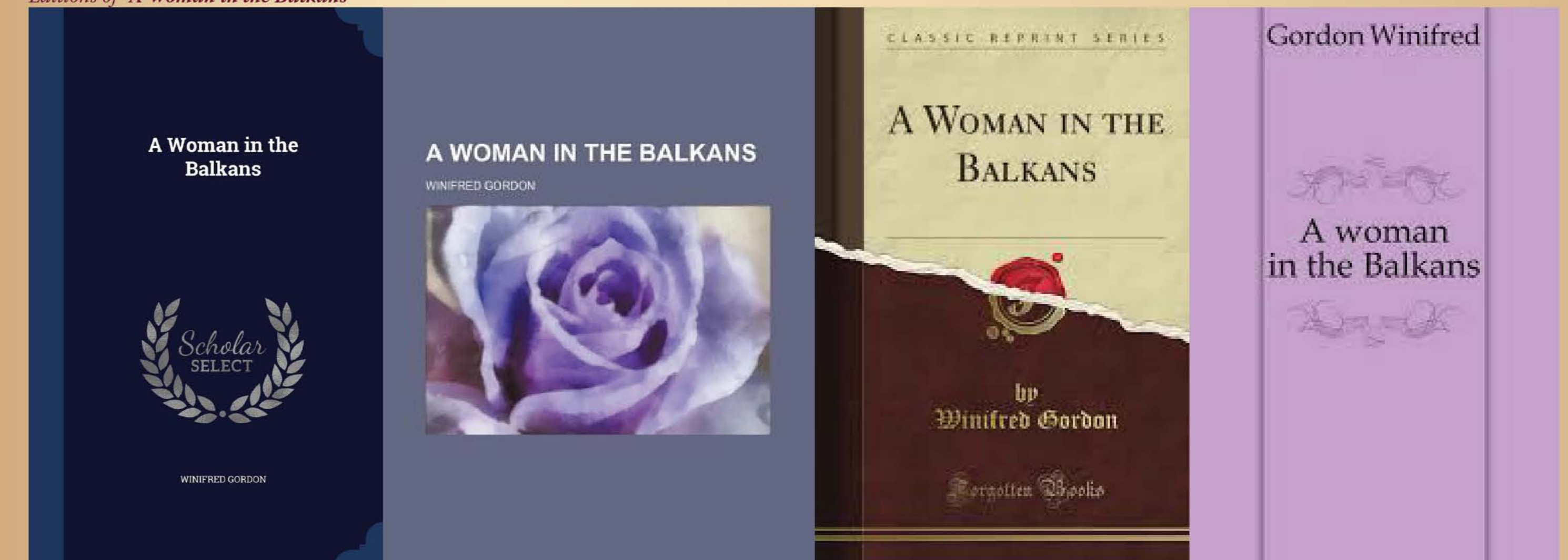


Photos by

Peasants near Tirnovo.

[W. Gordon.]

Editions of "A Woman in the Balkans"



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Issue #1/2019

A travel book turns into a news report: Agnes Ethel Conway (1885 - 1950) and „A Ride through the Balkans: on classic ground with a camera”(1917)

Agnes Conway was a traveler, archeologist, historian, and supporter of the women's rights movement. Her father was a British politician and an authority on art history, as well as a member of the Royal Geographical Society.

A travel book turns into a news report

"A Ride through the Balkans: on classic ground with a camera" is an account of the tour of Greece, Turkey, Albania and Montenegro, which Agnes Conway and Evelyn Radford, her fellow student at the British Archeological Institute in Athens, took in the early spring of 1914. Their original goal was to capture classic archaeological remains in the region in order to fill the photographic collection of Agnes' father.

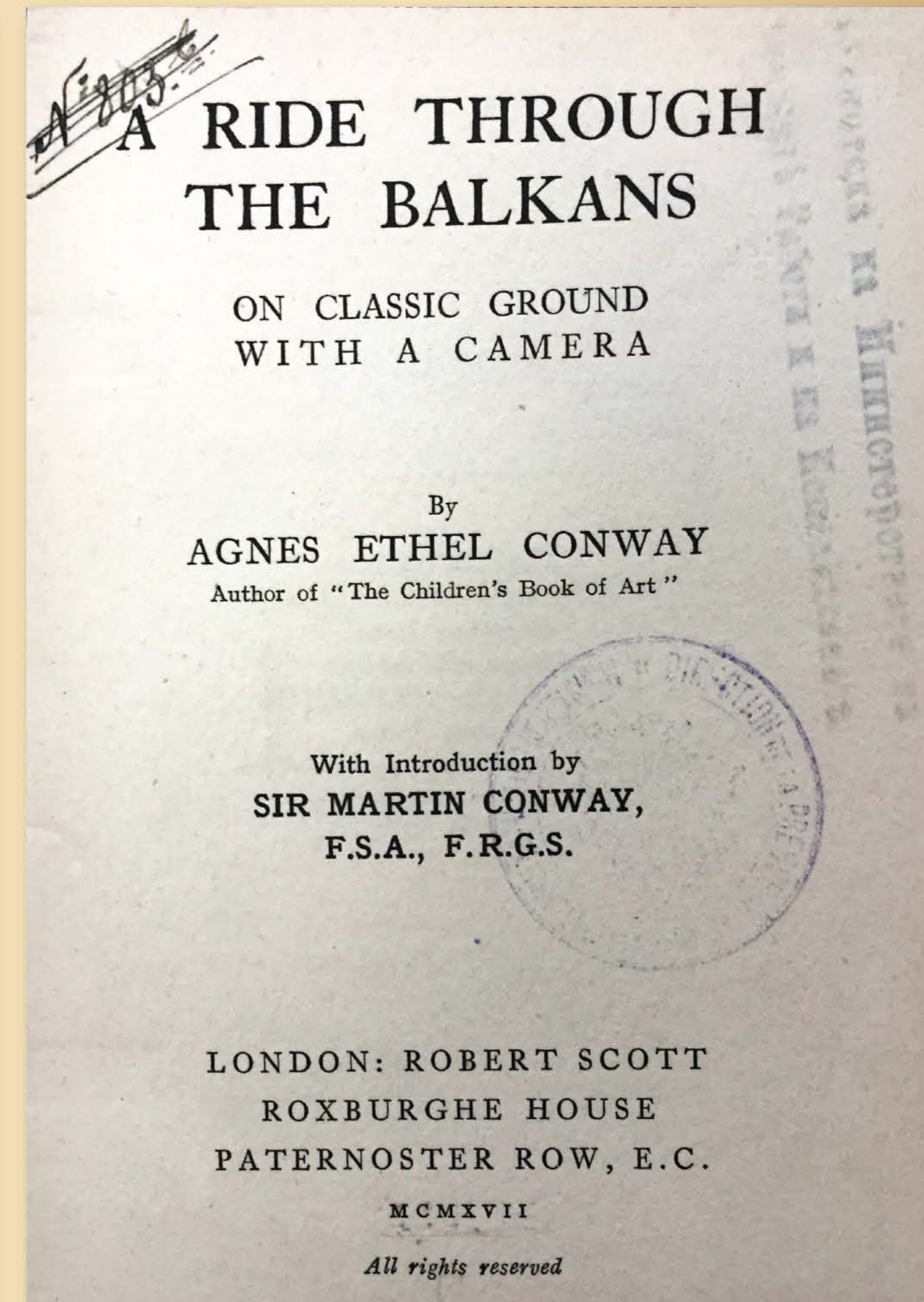
Confronted with reality, the pair would often deviate from the planned route and direct their lens at people whom they encountered by chance. Thus, their narrative morphed imperceptibly from a description of surviving ancient monuments dating from antiquity into a report on the Balkans in the peaceful interlude between the Second Balkan War (1913) and World War I (1914 - 1918).

Encounter with the Balkans: an experience with long-lasting impact

Following her voyage, Agnes Conway would never again return to the Balkans – nor would she forget what she had witnessed. The improvised refugee camps she came across during her travels contributed to her decision to organize a campaign to assist and accommodate Belgian refugees during WWI.

„So few of us know individual Serbians, Albanians, or Bulgarians. We know them only by newspaper repute as representatives of their nations – as crowd-unit – and we are liable to regard every inhabitants of the Balkans as a kind of half-civilized person, violent, dangerous, and untrustworthy. The fact that two ladies, in the months immediately succeeding a bloody war, could wander unescorted through regions thus recently disturbed, and everywhere meet with nothing but kindness, helpfulness and hospitality at the hands of people belonging to or little above the peasant class is noteworthy..“

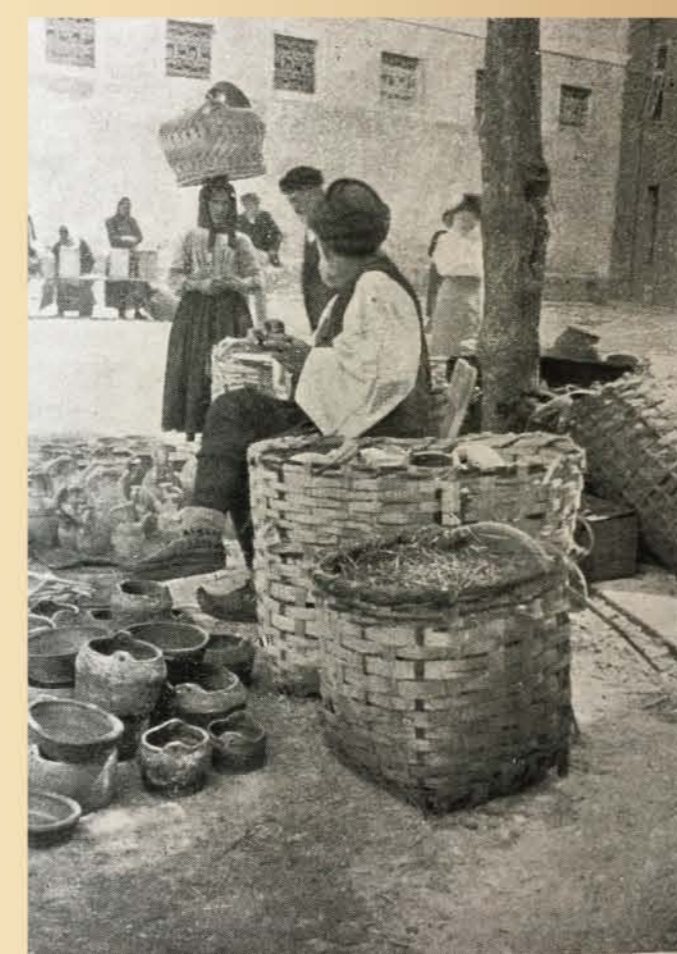
Introduction to „A Ride through the Balkans“
by Sir Martin Conway



Title page of the book



VLACHS IN YANINA



ZARA: MORLACH WITH POTS [To face page 200]

„[From Thessaloniki to Tempe]. The whole Balkan population at that time seemed on move. Our boat was crammed with Greek removing all their household goods to some new home in those parts which had not been devastated by the war..“

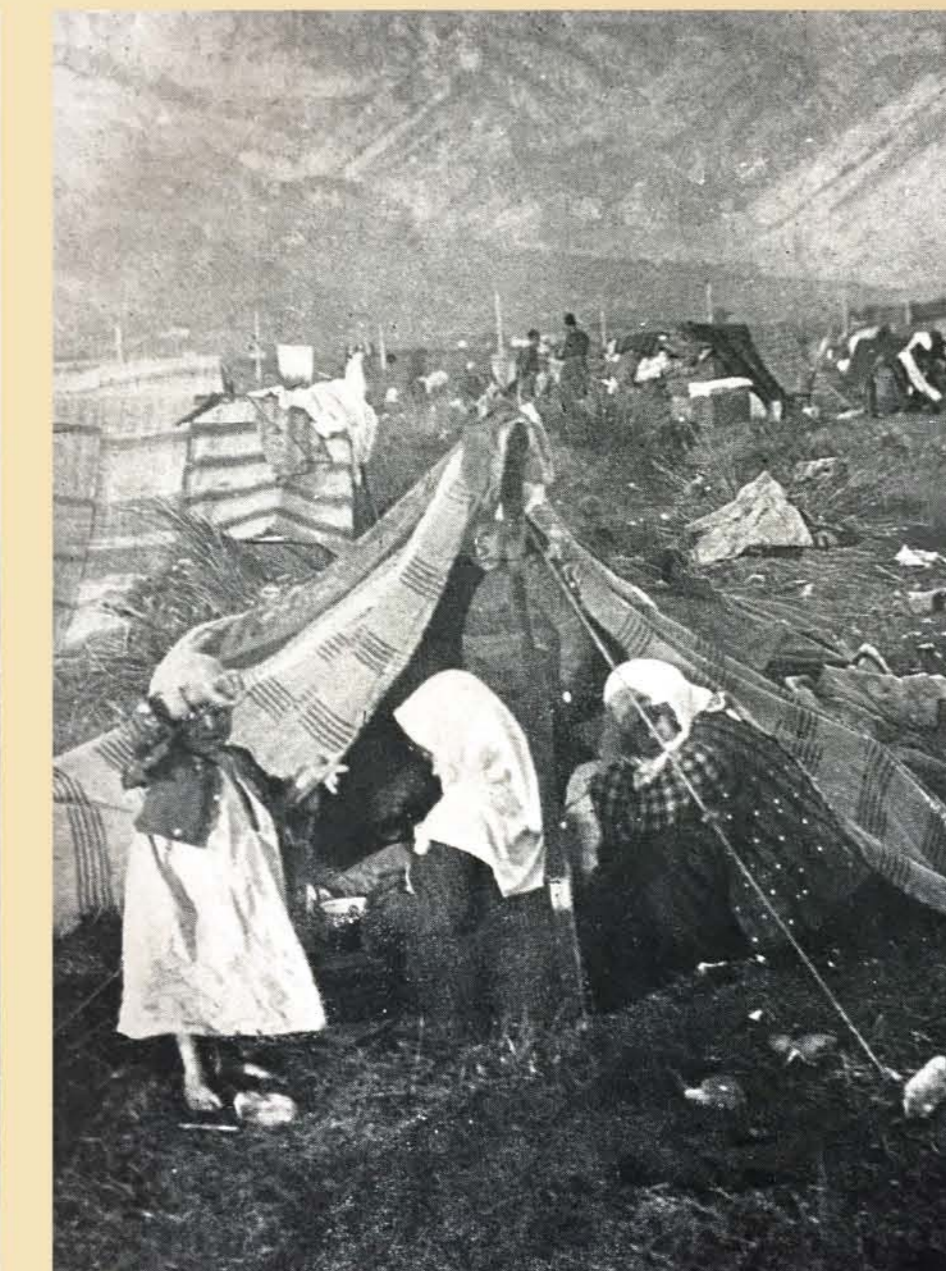
„At Antivari [Montenegro]. The whole of the flat ground was one mass of refugee huts, covered with gaily covered rugs and carpets, which were evidently the possessions most prized by the poor people... There must have been a thousand of them at least, as for weeks they had assembled, waiting for the Turkish steamer which was to convey them to Constantinople..“

Captivated by the Balkans

The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)



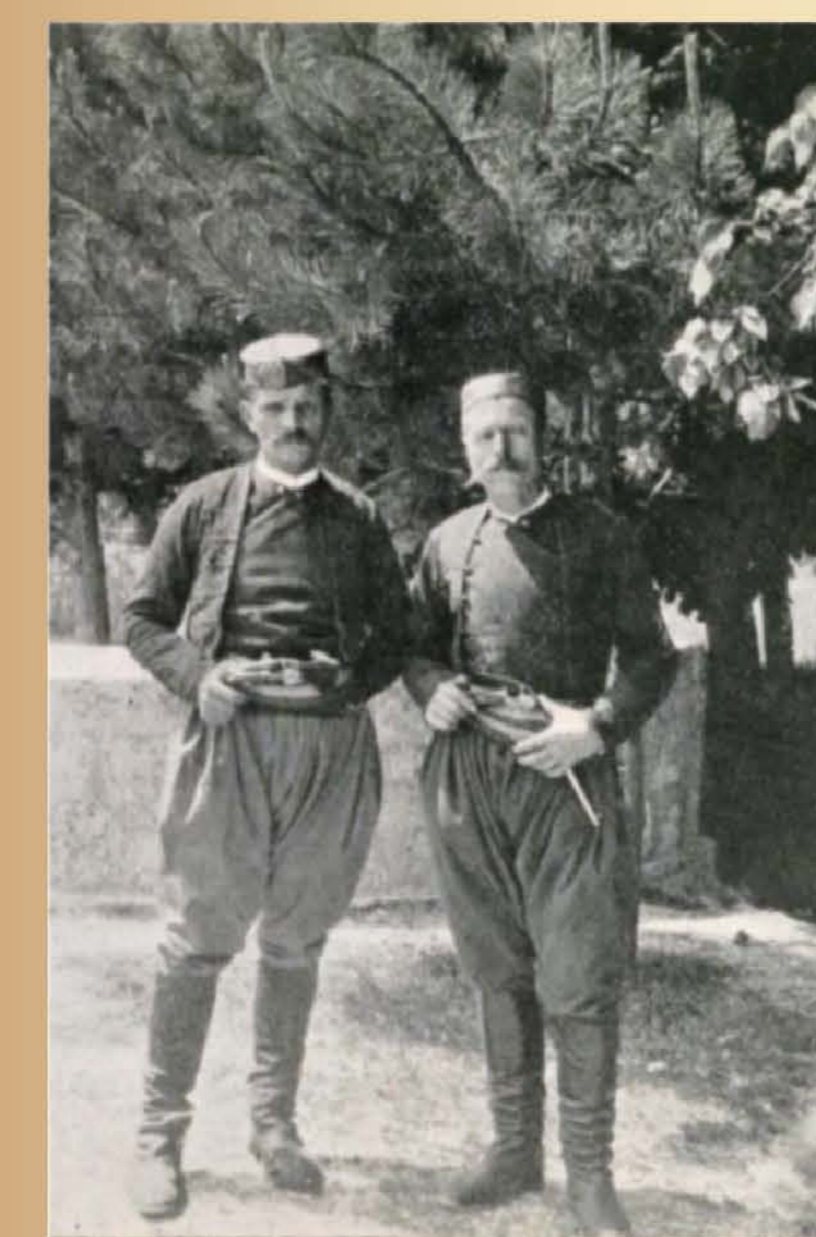
LAKE OF SCUTARI: TURKISH REFUGEES



A GROUP OF REFUGEES AT ANTIVARI



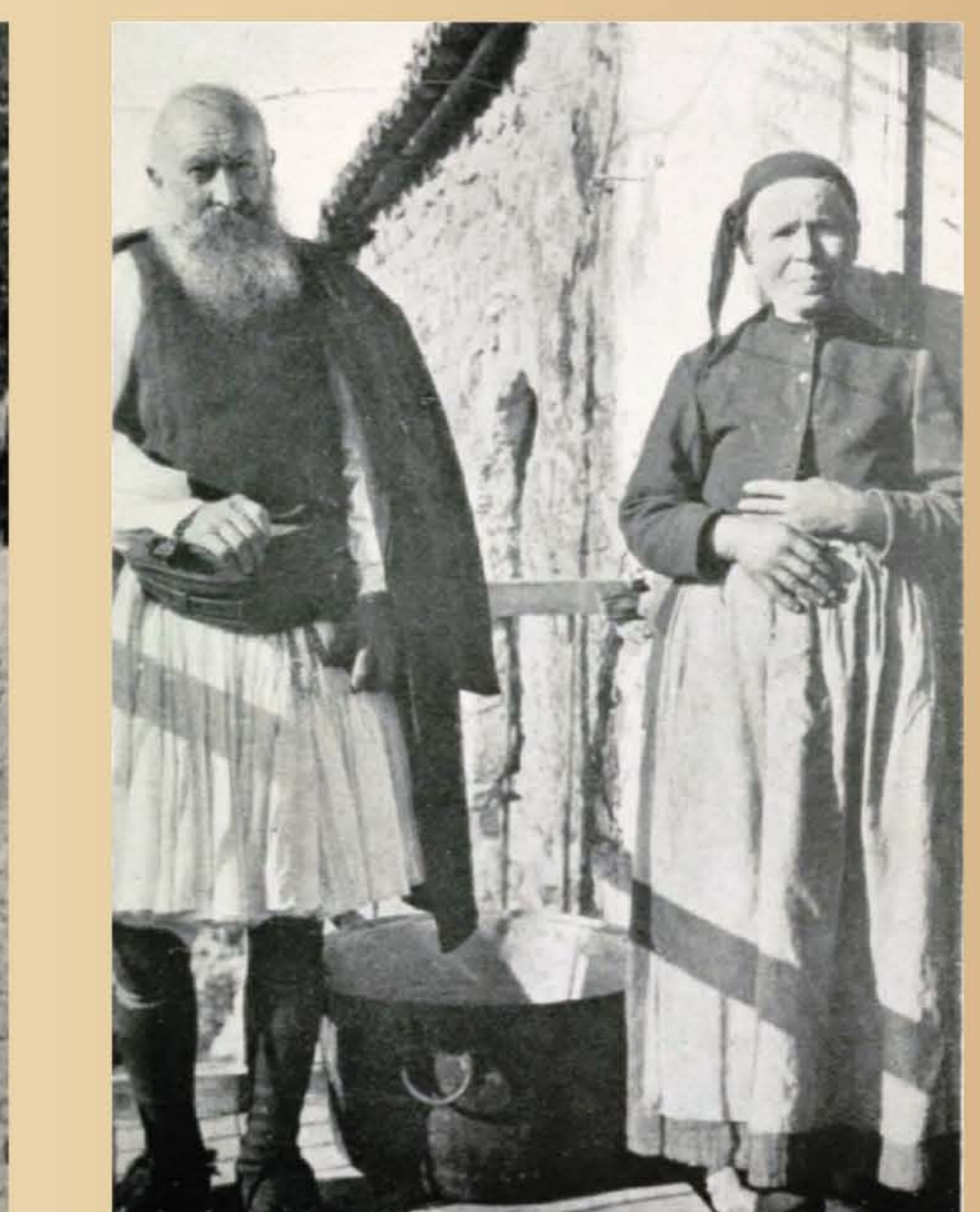
Agnes Ethel Conway, Imperial War Museum



CETTIGNE: PEASANT TYPES

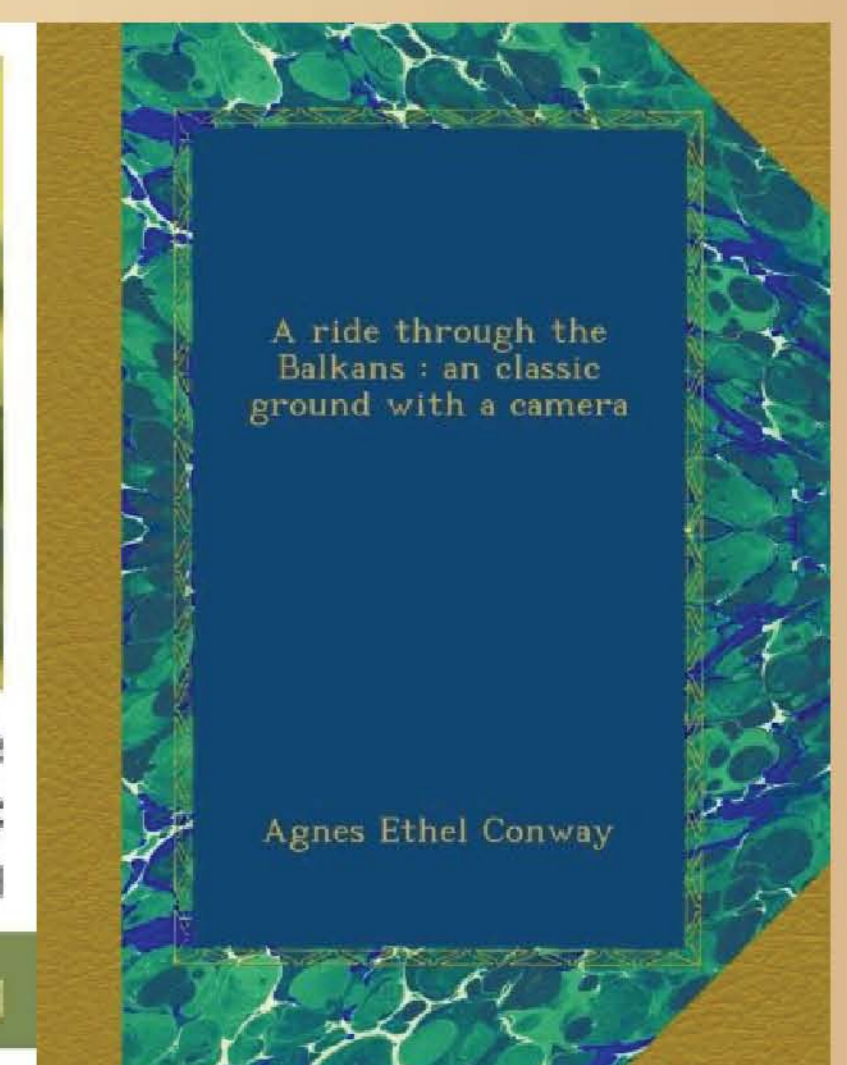
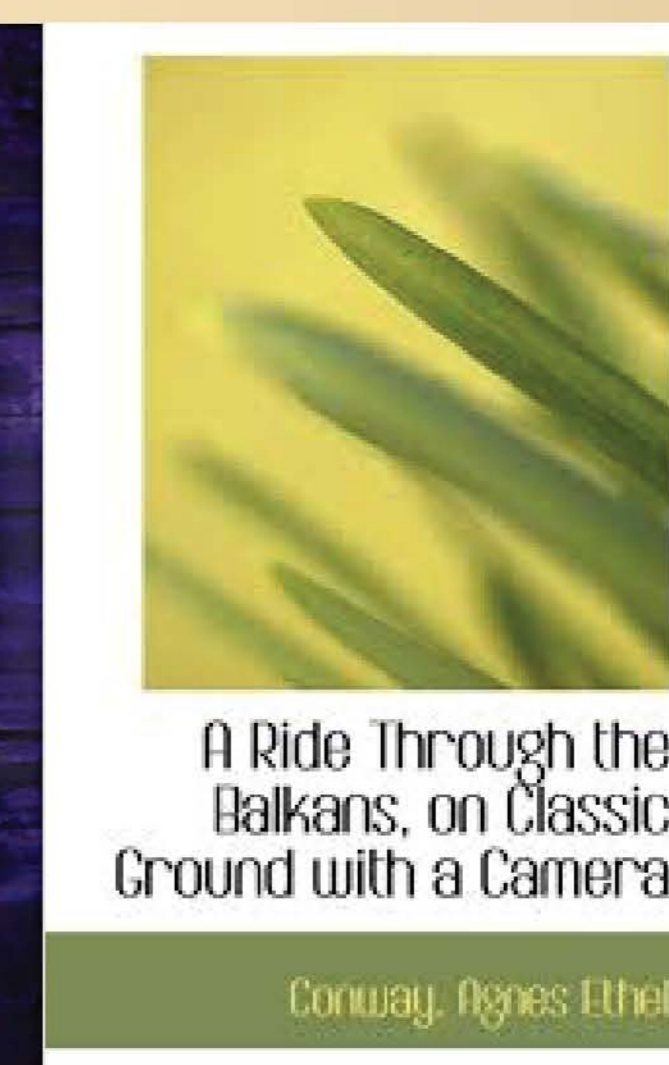
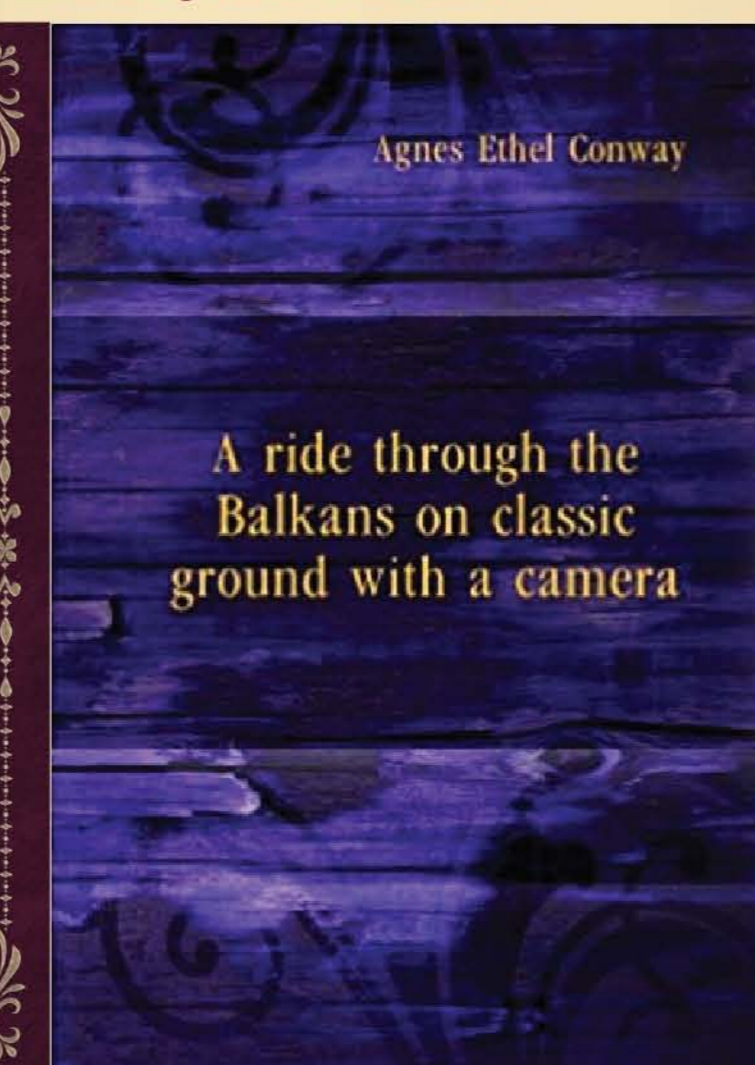
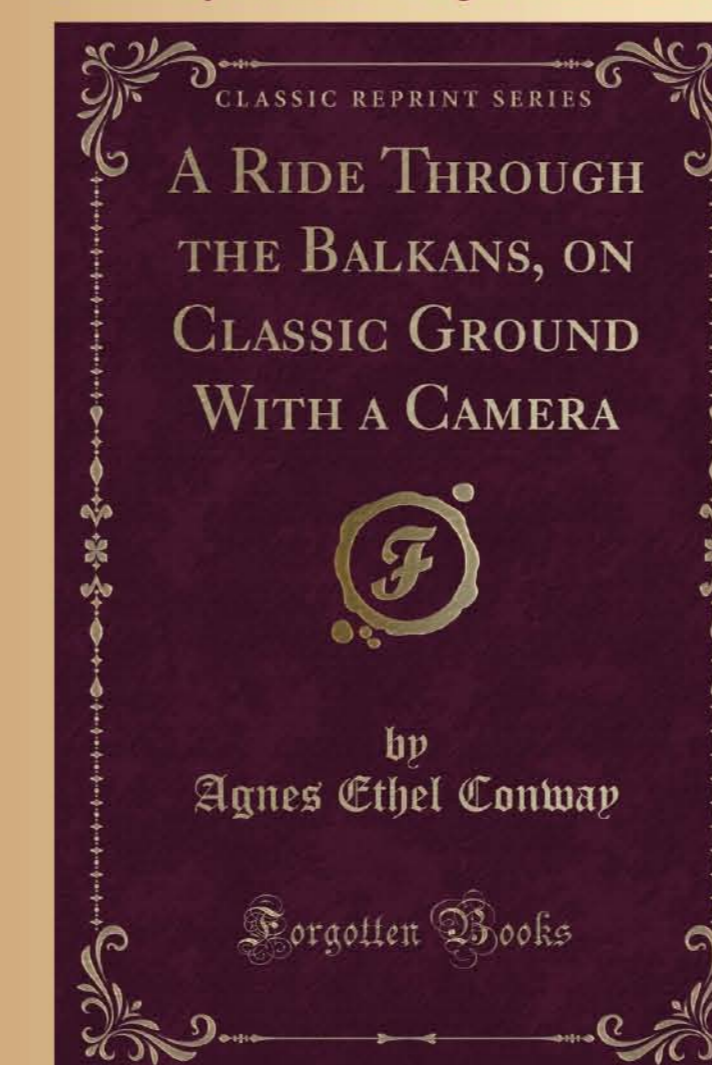


CETTIGNE: ARISTOCRACY



KARYTAENA: OUR HOSTS

Editions of "A Ride through the Balkans: on classic ground with a camera"



BOOKSHELVES

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Issue #1/2019

Feminism through the prism of the Orient: Lucy Mary Jane Garnett (1849 - 1934) and „Balkan Home-Life” (1917)

Lucy Mary Jane Garnett was a traveler, interpreter and ethnographer. She was born in Sheffield into the family of a surgeon.

Women of Turkey and Their Folklore (1890 - 1891)

The two-part edition under this title is Lucy Garnett's best-known work, detailing the social status, beliefs and folklore of representatives of different nationalities and religious beliefs across the Ottoman Empire.

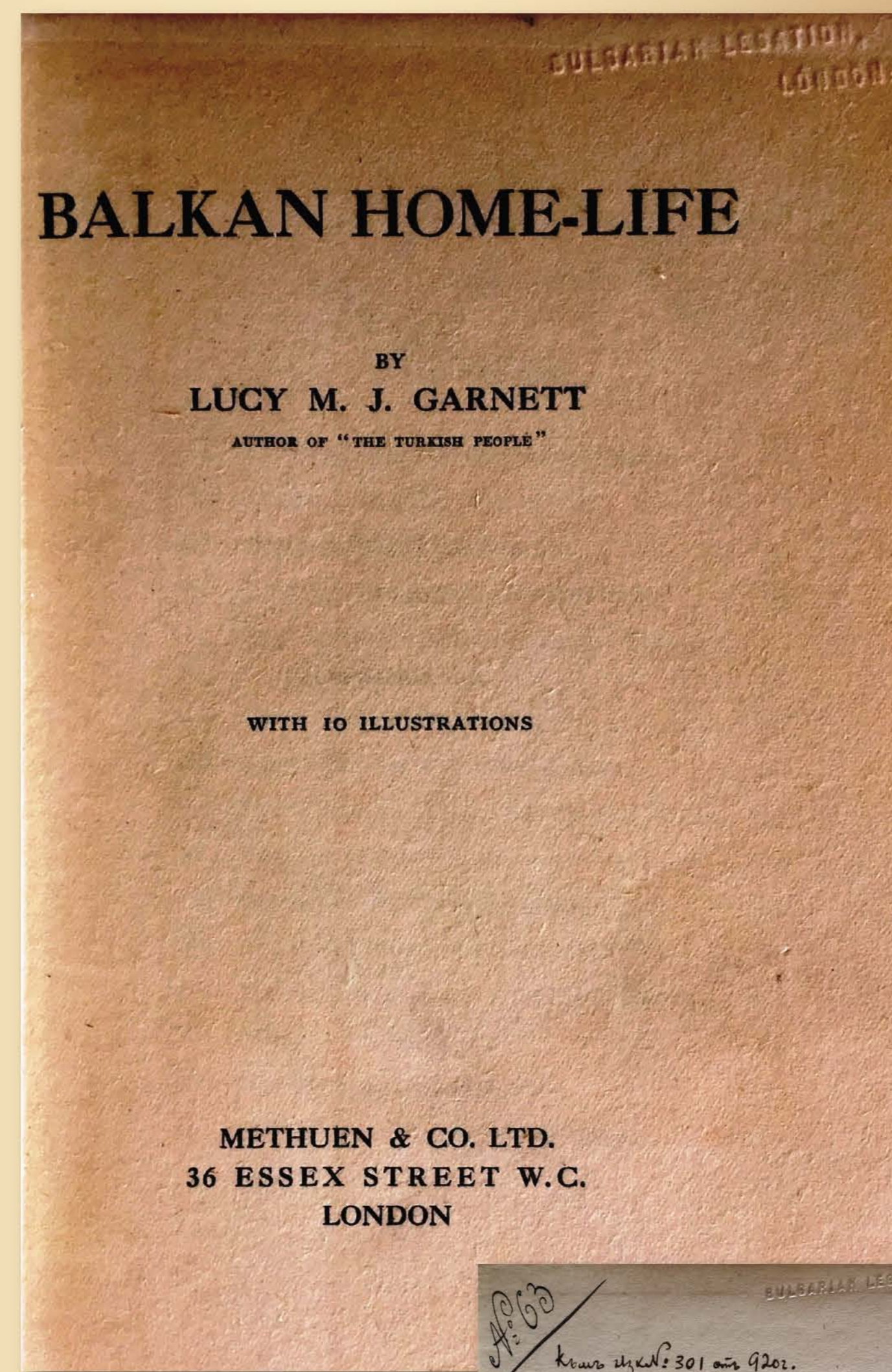
In 1893, the British government granted Lucy Garnett a civil service pension for her achievements in documenting the customs of the peoples of the Balkans and the Middle East.

An impartial look at both sexes

"Balkan Home-Life" (1917) is an ethnographic account of the everyday lives of Albanians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Wallachians, and Turks in the region. The compilation reiterates some of the author's earlier observations, already outlined in "Women of Turkey and Their Folklore", but also devotes some of the author's attention to the other sex.



BULGARIAN PEASANTS OF KIRETZKEUI, MACEDONIA



Title page and Contents page of the book

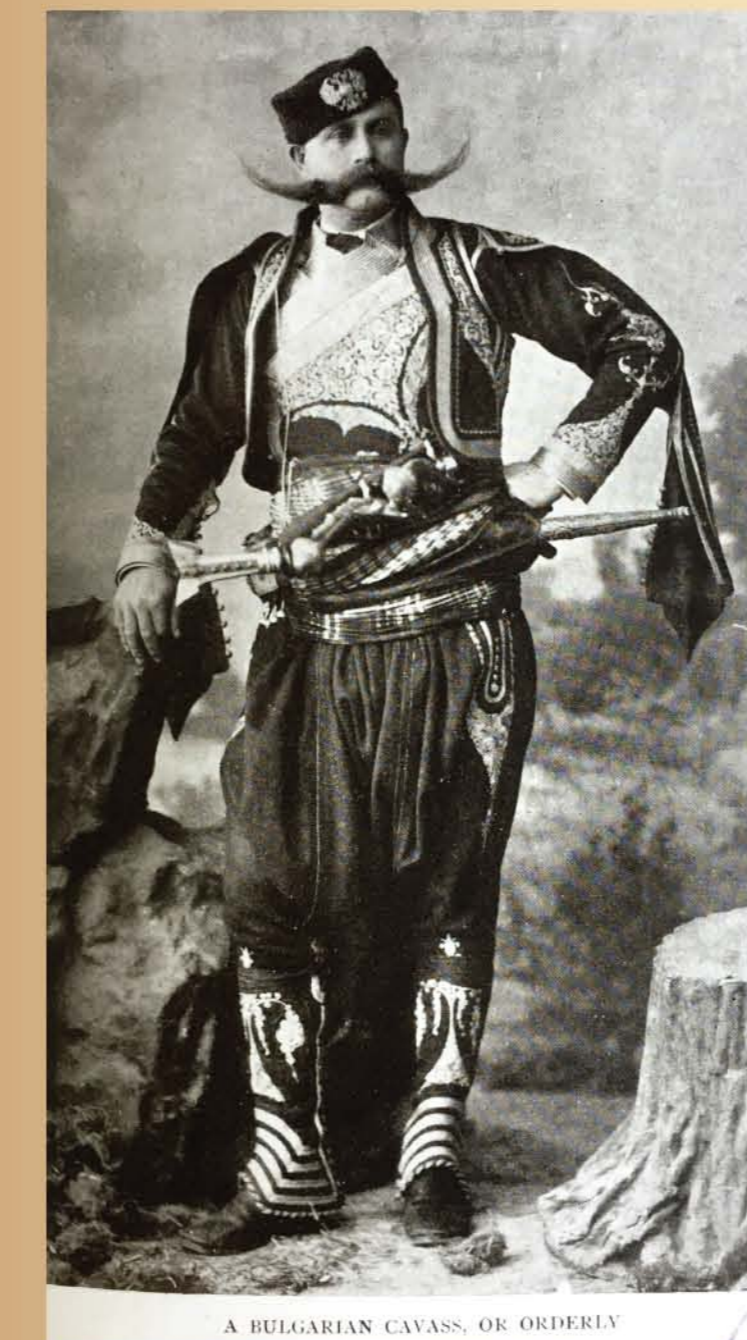
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„The Bulgarians not only constitute the bulk of the population of the kingdom of Bulgaria, but are found scattered in communities throughout the whole of Macedonia and Thrace, occupying in some places isolated villages, in others forming the majority of the population of a district, and constituting an important element in many provincial towns.”

„Many Bulgarian marriages are, no doubt, love matches; though more practical considerations often influence Petko and Yanko in the choice of their helpmates.”

Captivated by the Balkans

The Region through the eyes of seven British women travelers (18 - 20 c.)



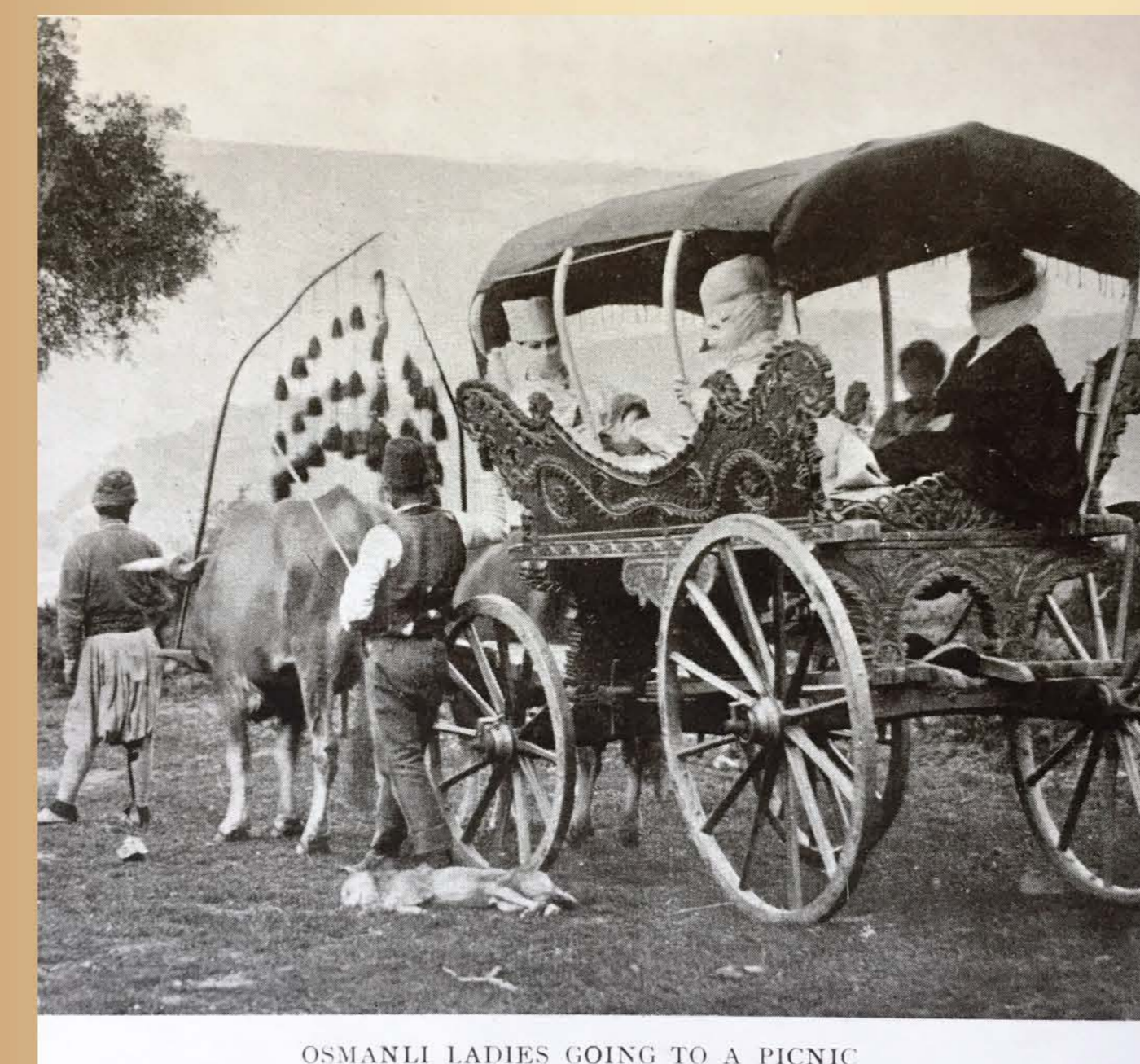
A BULGARIAN CAVASS. OR. ORDERLY



A TURKISH LADY IN OUTDOOR DRESS



ALBANIAN CAVASSES



OSMANLI LADIES GOING TO A PICNIC

„The 13th of January is called the Baboudien, or 1 Matron Day/ when the married women celebrate a kind of saturnalia, and, according to some accounts, indulge pretty freely in wine on the occasion.

[...]

The month of March, called by the Bulgarians Baba Mart, or 1 Mother March, is the only 1 female month of the year, and during this period the women are allowed to assert a kind of temporary supremacy over their husbands, and be as idle as they choose. They accordingly, in order to propitiate Baba Mart, abstain from washing, weaving, and spinning, and even from pipeclaying the floors of their houses, a task usually performed once a week; for, were they to perform any of these domestic duties, the goddess would give no rain during the rest of the year, but send instead lightning to destroy the house and the crops. The 25th day of March, on which the Mother is specially honoured, is called the Blagostina, and its observance and that of St. Constantine's Day, with which it coincides, are curiously mixed up. It is most probably a survival of the feast of the Vernal Equinox.”

Editions of "Balkan Home-life"

