

BOOK REVIEWS

Erzherzog Johann, Der Steirische Prinz, by Viktor Theis. 175 pages, with 6 illustrations. Graz: Verlag Böhlau, 1950. Price, \$2.00.

Archduke John of Austria was born in Florence in 1782 and died at Graz in 1859. In an eventful life he was adored by the mountain peasants, whose interests he in turn protected, and this mutual regard was not lessened by hismorganatic marriage to Anna Plochl, daughter of the Aussee postmaster. Although this book deals largely with the archduke's political life, it is well to remember that he was a pioneer in the Eastern Alps. He made the first ascent of the Wiener Schneeberg in 1802 and instigated the first ascent of the Ortler by Gebhard and Pichler in 1804. He ascended Ankogel and Gamskarkogel in 1826, and Hohen Priel in 1829. In 1828 he was one of a party attempting the Gross Venediger from the west side, gaining a point 200 m. below the summit, and only desisting when Rohregger, his leading guide, fell.

J. M. T.

Südtiroler Volksleben, by Karl Th. Hoeninger. 104 pages, illustrated from 170 paintings and sketches by Albert Stolz. Innsbruck-Vienna: Tyrolia-Verlag. Price, \$2.50.

Albert Stolz was the artist chronicler of the southern Tyrolese people, his work done primarily in Bolzano, where it is to be seen in frescoes of public and private buildings, in inns and hotels, as well as in galleries and numerous publications. Stolz was born in 1875 and died in 1947, losing his studio and a lifetime of work in the bombing of his city in 1943. Fortunately his major compositions were widely distributed and are still extant, his gaiety recorded in the harvest frescoes for the Villa Defregger, his many studies of peasant life, and even in the remarkable Dance of Death for the churchyard of Sexten, where Sepp Innerkofler lies. The text by Hoenninger is largely biographical, with a full exposition of the artist's recording of his time.

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Südtirol, by Josef Weingartner. 170 pages, with 33 color plates,

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100 text illustrations by Robert Zinner. Vienna: Adolf Holzhausens Mfg., 1950. Price, \$5.00.

In a readable text Weingartner describes the Eisach and Puster valleys, the Dolomites, the castles of the Vintschgau, and the areas subtending Bolzano and Merano. But the importance of the book rests in the pictures by Zinner, whose little studio is in the garden of the Hotel Grifone at Bolzano. They bring back memories of the Brenner road and of the pageant of history that has flowed through it and its lateral tributaries, making for splendid recording.

J. M. T.

Südtirol, by J. G. Oberkofler. 157 pages of full-page photographs by Hugo Atzwanger, with interspersed sections of text. Innsbruck-Vienna: Tyrolia-Verlag, 1950. Price, \$3.00.

South Tyrol has many names, among them The Land of Mountains and Glaciers, the Land of the Dolomites and the Vineyards. There is a magic in the way it draws one, and a longing to return will sweep over anyone casting an eye through such a book. The views of the central Dolomites, adjacent to the Schlern and Rosengarten, are particularly satisfying.

J. M. T.

Dolomitenland, by L. Franzl. 16 pages of trilingual text, with 160 full-page illustrations. Bolzano: L. Franzl, 1948. Price, \$3.50.

This book does not deal with climbing, but contains some of the most magnificent photos of landscape, peasant life, costume, and customs that one can possibly imagine. Many remote corners have been visited, with results that will make the amateur photographer despair. Altogether a good reason for owning it.

J. M. T.

Aus den Sextener Dolomiten, by Otto Langl. 191 pages, with 23 photographic illustrations. Vienna: Verlag der Oesterreichischen Bergsteiger-Zeitung, 1951. Price, \$2.00.

The author is a distinguished Austrian climber, whose first and last love for half a century has been the Dolomites of Sexten.