still able to read the Old English? In one of these we find the Orosius: the people of Oare, still a township in the twentieth century. What a very old country this is! And how lucky it is to have dedicated and insightful scholars such as Dr. Kelly, who has done so much for the British Academy's charter editions.

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ROSMOND FAITH


This is the last, but the most outstanding, work on the short list. Yet rather distinguished list of twentieth-century single-author short histories of Hungary (apart from Arthur Yolland's early propagandistic efforts) specifically aimed at the English reader. A. Mázsonyi's 1934 account of the Magyars in the volume on this list, which continues with the survey that Dominik (Domokos) Kosányi, still active in his ninth decade, published in 1941 and still bears re-reading, while the post-1956 account by Denis (Dénès) Sino, remains a short history of 1952 (not mentioned in Kontler's excellent biography), and Paul Ignatius' 1972 survey (which characteristically includes an appendix on the Hungarian language), were all written more or less as counterweights to the decades of committee-produced, sometimes combative and sometimes tragically tortured, distortions of the People's Republic period. Not that individual distinguished scholarship inside Hungary was lacking; figures like Erik Fügödi and the highly original thinker Jenő Szécs - whose influence pervades the present volume - must be noted among the outstanding historians in Europe. On this showing, Kontler is not far behind them. This is a comprehensive, even-handed, broadly drawn yet in-depth history of Hungary, confidently written in good English and finely produced by Atlantisz, with a small but carefully-chosen selection of illustrations and a few (not enough) maps. One area in which it is perhaps too soon to assess a comprehensive overview is that of the 'magistrate' policies pursued in the final decades of the Monarchy; more research is needed from all sides to put this still-burning issue into a more manageable political and cultural perspective. And subsequent editions (and there will be many) will, it is to be hoped, drop the main title, something that - like the London Millennium Dome - may have suited a good idea at the time but is rapidly receding into history.

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PETER SHERWOOD


This study is a valuable contribution to a series of short accounts of European peoples that have already established themselves as coherent and stimulating introductions to their subjects. While some of these, such as the Basques and Bretons, have survived with their own cultures and languages intact to the present day, the Normans and their own have been absorbed into...