will render them relatively obscure and difficult of access for scholars. In this respect *Z žyćcia rodna ha slova* follows collections like *Bieltaruskaja mova* (1965) and *Linhvistyčnyja dašledavaŋni* (1968), and, indeed, most of the contributors are the same. Of the seventeen articles, seven are concerned with historical lexicology, six with individual semantic fields in the modern language (with the usual

emphasis on words relating to material culture) and four with particular groups of prefixes and suffixes. Despite the unnecessarily haphazard nature of its publication, the collection contains a considerable amount of new material and will be of interest to students of Slavonic lexicology.

Arnold B. McMillin

De Bray, R. G. A. *Guide to the Slavonic Languages*, 2nd. revised edition, London — New York, 1969, XXVI + 798 pages. List of contents. Prefaces. List of abbreviations. Introduction. Bibliography.

Professor de Bray's unique and prodigious work was first published in 1951. To borrow a phrase from the non-Slavonic, non-linguistic field, it indeed constituted a great leap forward, providing the English-speaking student of Slavonic languages with a handbook which contained between its covers sections on each of the literary languages of the Slav world: Old Slavonic, Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbocroatian, Slovenian, Czech, Slovak, Polish and Lusatian, Upper and Lower.

Each section consists of a concise grammar preceded by information on the alphabet, pronunciation, dialects, vowel gradation and lengthening, and, perhaps most valuable to students of comparative Slavonic philology, lists of the characteristic features. The latter are presented in various categories: common Slavonic characteristics, features which integrate a group and those which typify only the given language, so that kinship and individuality are both given their due. Each section also contains some texts for the reader to test his knowledge of the grammar. He will find, says the author, that he has embarked on a journey of endless fascination, and the present reviewer takes the opportunity to endorse those words with gratitude.

Professor de Bray writes with deep affection for the languages and their speakers in the introductory notes which head each section, and with sympathetic understanding for the student's needs in the general introduction to the book.

Simple presentation and avoidance of specialised terminology enable the author to present to a wide public a whole field of study which otherwise

might have remained difficult of access.

In this second edition the sections on Bulgarian, Czech and Polish have been corrected, revised and slightly expanded. The section on Byelorussian has been revised and brought up-to-date. Readers of this journal have already had the opportunity of reading the author's comments on the innovations made to bring this into line with the new authoritative grammar of Byelorussian published by the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences in Minsk. (See 'Grammatical Changes in Modern Literary Byelorussian', *JBS*, I, 3, London, 1967, pp. 215-20.)

There are very few misprints for a book which numbers 798 pages. On page 206 *thought* should be corrected to *though*; on page 460 the heading *Plur.* in the new edition is misplaced over the singular of *duše*; on page 470 the colon after a *dual form* in the footnote on *těmi* could be misunderstood — a comma or no punctuation mark would make it clear that the reference is to the next word *těma*. On page 202, by what might be called, in discussing a work of such epic design and proportions a Homeric slip of the pen, the Indo-European diphthong *ei* appears among those causing the Second Slavonic Palatalisation: the formula is correctly given on page 5.

All English-speaking Slavists will wish Professor de Bray well with his continuing work on the Slavonic languages. We look forward to the next edition in which the Slovene and other sections will be amplified, and express the hope that a recording of the texts and possibly some of the other material of particular interest to phoneticians will be by then available.

H. Leeming