

PANOS D. BARDIS, **Studies in Marriage and the Family**, 191, Spring, Lexington, Massachusetts: Xerox 1975, pp. xiv + 253, \$ 13.68.

This book is a new venture in writing about current marriage and family sociology in that it is both a text and a research manual for use in creative teaching.

It consists of seven sections, six which deal with intellectual surveys of ideas and a seventh which explains the techniques of original research used by the author so that the reader may repeat the investigation for testing.

The first section gives a short resume of the family systems in ancient and modern Western society and three contemporary in the East, India, the Philippine Islands, and Hawaii. The second deals with love and sex, partly historical and partly current. The others deal successively with studies of dating and courtship, familism, abortion and the pill, and conclusions about the state of the modern family in our present society. His Appendix, Section Seven, concerns dating, heterosexual love, and all the aspects of family life in which the author has created attitude scales or devices for measuring miscellaneous variables ranging from sex participation, birth control, and family violence over to the current concepts of «sin» and institutionalized religion.

This is a very creative work and a decidedly new approach to study and teaching about our current family problems. As is usual in periods of rapid change in mores and practices of the basic social institution, the family, public attitudes are very much polarized concerning each phase. The «liberals» think that now we have finally founded a new social paradise, whereas many of the opposite inclination feel that society is sitting on a «hot seat» and can hardly wait until the situation subsides.

The author's point of view is that the family involves three main fields of interest, sex, collective social activities, and individual psychology. To deal with all three areas is beyond one course of text, hence he seeks to bridge over the basics of each field. His methods may be presented through a few remarks about his concept of the «Borromean» family. Without going into the history of this theory (which is connected in part with Bernoulli's principle of the continuous similar probability that an event may occur, such as in items which follow the normal frequency distribution), we see that the author posits from various authoritative studies that the family is inseparable from human social life. Consequently, in periods of change in which the physiological or the sociopsychological needs either advance or decrease, the other compensates so that the family really in itself remains a relative constant. (This theory explains the controversy between the «anti-familists» and «pro-familists,» since, in reality, both independence and familism are, to a certain extent each, present in modern societies — p. 199.)

This complex idea (to explain at least) indicates that the author is in the forefront of modern family writers in his understanding of various sociological problems involved. The «Borromean principle,» if valid, gives the family system a «cyclical» probability, which means that we are still in a world dominated by the main principles of social change outlined by Aristotle in his *Nicomachean Ethics*.

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