

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

Firstly, the second edition of *Our European Origins* has been undertaken to correct the obvious typographical and spelling errors which appear in the first edition and to provide better quality graphics of the maps of the countries of Europe appearing in the book. And, although the second edition has two chapters less than the first, the contents of the revised chapters contain the histories of the same European nationalities and the origins of names as appear in the first edition. Secondly, numerous readers have commented to the writer that they have thoroughly enjoyed reading this early history of Europe, which relates the origins of its various nationalities, and they have suggested that he re-publish it. Hopefully, the reader will find this edition more exciting and easier to read.

Again, the aim of this book is to provide a brief, thumbnail history of the various nationalities of Europe, keeping in mind the particular interests of professional and amateur genealogists and family historians. To appreciate this aim, the reader must realize that today many ethnic nationalities actually transcend current, established "national" borders and that the people they seek are not always to be found in the country which normally suggests their ethnicity. For example, the Swiss-German and the Austrian are members of the Germanic race, but they are not to be found living in Germany. Also, the people of Hungarian origin living in Transylvania do not live in Hungary; instead, today, they are citizens of Romania. Thus, this history is about the many different peoples of Europe despite current borders.

And, this book does not have to be read from cover to cover in the normal manner. Instead, the reader may pick and choose which countries or nationalities to read about first, according to one's particular interest. Quite often in family research, one may find difficulty in tracing a particular surname back to the immigrant ancestor who arrived in America. In that case, the reader will find a chapter in this book relating to the origins and history of that particular nationality of vital interest. And, even if one has undertaken genealogical research of a family name in the appropriate European country, he or she should still find something of interest about that nationality in this book.

Therefore, anyone who wishes to learn more about the peoples of Europe and their origins is encouraged to read this book.

Robert S. Riley