

disappointment. It will be used principally as a work of reference. In spite of the emasculation of the documents and the difficulty of finding one's way among them, it is a serviceable compendium of documentary data. As a demonstration that the discoverer of America was born in the city of Genoa, it stands a monumental failure.

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*De Renaissance in Spanje, Kultuur, Litteratuur, Leven.* By DR. G. J. GEERS, in collaboration with DR. J. BROUWER. (Zutphen: W. J. Thieme en Cie, 1932. Pp. VIII, 383. Eleven guilders.)

This book is intended as a popular account of life and culture in the Golden Age of Spain. Dr. Geers proceeds along the path marked out by Professor Huizinga's studies on the Renaissance. He states that many writers have either minimized the Renaissance in Spain or even denied its existence. Nevertheless, it is quite evident that in Spain as well as in other European lands, there was a significant departure from the Middle Ages. The changes in art, literature, society, politics, and economic life from 1470 onwards all illustrate the transition from the medieval to the modern, which Professor Huizinga of Leiden has designated as the more general and significant feature of what may be called the Renaissance. The first five chapters are devoted to the history of Spain up to the death of Felipe IV. Dr. Geers wisely avoids reciting many events and giving an endless mass of dates, limiting himself rather to general conditions. He has succeeded admirably in portraying the social nexus which forms the basis of cultural activities described in succeeding chapters. This part of the book is a most valuable supplement to the political histories of the period. Particularly pleasing is the portrayal of Felipe II, who has suffered so much at the hands of modern historians. He is shown as a hardworking and conscientious king who sought to conduct his statecraft according to Christian principles. Catholicism was the cornerstone of his political edifice, and orthodoxy and citizenship were synonymous. The monarch was absolute and political functions were more highly centralized than in other lands. Felipe II, however, failed to give his realm an adequate economic policy and never understood the conditions which made possible the success of his enemies. The sad career of Don Carlos is effectively treated and full justice is

done to the legends which disfigure older accounts. The chapter on literature, the longest in the book, is by Dr. Brouwer. It presents an adequate account of prose and poetry and is quite sympathetic to the mysticism as well as to the rationalist thought of the time. Art is discussed in four chapters. In no other book will one find a briefer and better account of the evolution of Spanish art. The sketch dealing with painting begins with a statement of conditions in the Middle Ages and traces the dominant Flemish influences until the passing of Moro and the growing forces of Italian painting until the appearance of Domenico Theotocopuli (El Greco). Then began the school of Spanish national painting. The closing chapter contains a survey of man and society based upon the literature of the Golden Age somewhat after the manner of Jakob Burckhardt. Popularization of scientific work is a very important need but it is possible only at the hands of scholars. These writers have given us a valuable book. One regrets that it is written in a language which is spoken by only about twelve millions and therefore will have a restricted circulation. A pleasing feature is the eighty-five splendid plates and the attractive format and binding.

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*Colombia y los Estados Unidos de America.* By ANTONIO JOSÉ URIBE.  
(Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional, 1931. Pp. 443.)

Dr. Antonio José Uribe is one of the few distinguished international figures of those who participated in the "Panama Affair" who are still living. Roosevelt, Hay and Lodge, Marroquin, Herrán, Silva and the others who took part in that event—"one of the most notable and transcendental pages in the diplomatic history of the world"—are gone. Dr. Uribe, who, as minister of foreign relations of Colombia, wrote the instructions for the negotiators of the Hay-Herrán Treaty, and who, again filling that office, on March 1, 1922, exchanged ratifications of the so-called treaty of April 6, 1914, with Hoffman Philip, has here published a number of his personal papers referring to the history of that affair. These papers are the more interesting as Dr. Uribe is perhaps the only one of the principal actors who lived through the period of our quarrel with Colombia from its "divine