

modifying the basic stipulations of a purely Christian origin and of a *limpieza de sangre*. Even the stigma of illegitimate birth was not an insuperable barrier to such distinctions as the case of Martín Cortés, the bastard son of the conqueror of Mexico, and of others clearly proves. While a merchant or businessman was ineligible for the bestowal of a habit, if he had not soiled his hands by direct contact with such vulgar activities, his wealth sometimes facilitated the acquisition of such a cherished symbol of distinction. As time went on New World aspirants could satisfy the stipulations of *hidalgo* ancestry by merely stating the provinces of Spain from which their forebears had migrated. These and many other facts are set forth in the excellent historical introduction to these volumes, and it affords illuminating insights into the social history of the ruling classes of early Hispanic America. Many consulting these volumes may wish that the brief summaries given by the compiler contained fuller data, but anyone familiar with the enormous archival records from which these abstracts were taken will acknowledge that a full utilization would have expanded these two weighty tomes into a prohibitive number of the same size. This is a helpful instrument of research, well printed on good paper, which scholars will welcome.

IRVING A. LEONARD.

The University of Michigan.

*Vida y viajes de Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa, descubridor de las Islas, Salomón, poblador y capitán general del Estrecho de Magallanes, almirante de la guardia de Indias.* By AMANCIO LANDÍN CARRASCO. [Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto Histórico de Marina.] (Burgos: Imprenta Aldecoa, 1945. Pp. 307. Maps. Paper.)

Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa is one of the most tantalizing figures of colonial Spanish America. Briefly he appears in many widely different phases of that history and then disappears, leaving the reader's curiosity whetted but unsatisfied. The student of Pacific history speculates as to what difference it might have made, had Sarmiento's course for Mendaña's voyage been followed, or if, after the discovery of the Solomon Islands, these had been occupied as Sarmiento urged. Anyone interested in the religious history of Spanish America finds himself eager for more details about the practical jokes and mischievous pranks which brought Sarmiento into frequent conflict with the humorless Inquisition. Those who study the American Indian cultures puzzle as to whether the history of the Incas written by this same Sarmiento presents a true picture or purely propaganda. Even students of budding British imperialism come across Don Pedro's record as he was sent to chart the

eastward passage through the Strait of Magellan, the gate through which the daring English intruder, Francis Drake, had entered the Pacific, and later to colonize and fortify that area for Spain, a venture ending in tragedy for the colonists and capture by English pirates for Sarmiento.

Various phases of Sarmiento's career have been dealt with by such Spanish and English historians as Martín Fernández de Navarrete, Cesáreo Fernández Duro, Julio F. Guillén Tato, Ernesto Morales, and Sir Clements R. Markham, but none has attempted to round out a biography of Sarmiento, the man, the navigator, the royal official, the historian and writer. It is to fill this need that the present volume is offered by Amancio Landín Carrasco, with the blessing of the Instituto Histórico de Marina. Recent events in the Solomon Islands, the stirrings of international rivalry at the southern tip of the Americas, and an increasingly realistic approach to the study of the Incas, all combine to make its appearance timely.

For the most part, Landín has done a good job. Sarmiento's life story is told in simple narrative fashion, often in his own words, sometimes in those of his friends or of his enemies. One new chapter has been added—the end of the story. Hitherto Sarmiento's history after his return to Spain has been shrouded in mystery but Landín, on the basis of newly discovered documents, reveals that Sarmiento died in 1592, at the age of sixty, shortly after having set out on his final mission, that of admiral of the armada for the Indies.

Sarmiento's faults have been well aired in the past his virtues less so. Here, in Landín's biography, the emphasis has been reversed and, one feels, with justice. Even though it appears obvious that Sarmiento must have lacked not only the magic quality of leadership but also the more homely gift of getting along with folks, his abilities, his dreams, above all his stubborn, heroic efforts to carry out the tasks assigned to him command our sympathy and respect.

The usefulness of this book is increased by the inclusion of nine selected documents relating to Sarmiento's life, by splendid bibliographies of the manuscripts and other materials used, a good index, and four maps (on some of which the printing is unfortunately microscopic).

This *Vida y viajes de Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa* is hardly the "must" of which my learned colleagues delight to speak but it is interesting as a human document and it does make a welcome addition to the historical literature about the Spanish America of the era of Philip II.

IONE STUESSY WRIGHT.

University of Miami.