

Toledo, founded in 1501 and 1504 respectively. In this place instead there was an additional ward equipped with a portable altar, as at the hospital in Granada. The chapel of the Dominican hospital had side aisles like that of the hospital in Valencia, built shortly after 1510. Palm draws convincing conclusions about the medieval vaulting of the chapel, the close relationship of the piers to those of the cathedral of Ciudad Trujillo, and the stylistic significance of the early Renaissance ornament among the ruins. He fails, however, to comment upon the degree of restoration which these ruins have recently undergone and which is clearly visible in the illustrations. The quality of the latter, unfortunately, as in many Latin-American publications, leaves much to be desired.

In conclusion, the author discusses, briefly, two other hospitals of the sixteenth century in Ciudad Trujillo, parts of which still survive; the unrealized project for another hospital in the capital city; and two more of the period in the interior of the country which no longer survive.

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Historia colonial de la América española. Vol. II, *Descubrimientos, conquististas y colonización del Nuevo Mundo.* By ALFONSO TORO. (Mexico City: Editorial Patria, S. A., 1949. Pp. 605. Illustrations, maps, index. Paper.)

This new volume is the second of a series by Alfonso Toro which on completion will form an extensive colonial history of Spanish America. Volume I, covering the background of the Age of Discovery and the career of Columbus, was reviewed in this journal several years ago (Vol. XXVIII, May, 1948).

Since Toro limits himself to Spanish America, the activities of the Portuguese in Brazil, except for early coastwise explorations, are omitted. Some will think this a regrettable omission, since we have already had too many compartmentalized histories of America. But even with allowance made for the absence of Brazil, the present volume is not accurately described by its title "Discoveries, conquests, and colonization of the New World." The narrative portion is confined to coastal exploration, the conquest of the West Indies, the establishment of the first mainland settlements, part of the conquest of Central America, the overthrow of the Aztecs, the conquest of Peru, and, finally, the voyage of Magellan. As yet untouched are such important matters as the explorations north of Mexico culminating in the Coronado expedition, the subjection of the Chibchas by Jiménez de Quesada, the conquest of northern Chile by Valdivia, and the beginnings of Spanish

settlements on the Río de la Plata and in Paraguay. Toro probably intends to take these up in his next volume, yet this is surely the logical place to include them. Some of the abundant detail devoted to the more familiar episodes of Spanish conquest might have been spared to make room in the present volume for events equally important if less well known.

Total omission of footnotes and the absence of a bibliography make it rather difficult at times to tell just what sources and secondary accounts the author is using, though Toro occasionally helps out by offering comments in his text regarding the nature of various authorities.

Following an extended description of the North- and South-American climate and terrain, the author gives lengthy, though rather orthodox, accounts of Vespucci and other voyagers immediately following Columbus. This leads logically to the conquest of the West-Indian islands, which Toro describes in considerable detail, to the accompaniment of the familiar horror stories regarding Spanish treatment of the natives.

The scene then changes to the Isthmus of Darien, where Balboa, for a time, is the main character. In dealing with the Balboa-Pedrarias rivalry, the author behaves with commendable moderation. Some writers, notably Pablo Alvarez Rubiano, have attempted to give Pedrarias a whitewashing, without much apparent success. Toro is no such revisionist, but it is evident that he does not consider the ancient governor quite the monster that many suppose him to have been.

There follows an interesting chapter on the attempts of the Dominicans to gain protection for the downtrodden Indians. It is pleasing to note here that Antonio Montesinos comes in for a full share of the credit usually awarded entirely to Las Casas.

Over a hundred-and-fifty pages are devoted to what Prescott and others, with questionable justification, have called the "conquest of Mexico," beginning with the first expeditions sent from Cuba by Diego Velásquez and ending with the fall of Tenochtitlan. This is probably the most valuable part of the volume, for Toro appears to go beyond Bernal Díaz del Castillo and the other narrative historians and to use all available kinds of evidence. However, one instance of originality is less welcome, namely the spelling employed for the name of the Aztec emperor, who appears here as "Motecuhzoma." Though no authority in Aztec studies, I suggest that the form "Montezuma," though incorrect, is sufficiently hallowed by time and usage to be retained for ordinary historical purposes.

The conquest of Peru is described more briefly than is that of the Aztecs, and the account of Magellan's voyage, which concludes the volume, closely follows the journal of Pigafetta.

Toro's second volume is a considerable improvement on his first. But if he continues the series his real test is yet to come, for he is now nearly through the spectacular age of discovery and conquest and must presently grapple with the more prosaic but tremendously important problems of the colonial period.

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BRIEF MENTION

Bartolomé de Las Casas, an Interpretation of His Life and Writings. By LEWIS HANKE. (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1951. Pp. ix, 102. Illustrations, index. Paper. Gs. 5.) An English version of the series of lectures on Las Casas given by the author at the University of Virginia in 1948 and subsequently in Cuba. A Spanish edition of this work was noticed in the November, 1950, issue of this REVIEW. The outstanding type, format, and paper of the present edition and the well-chosen and attractive plates make it in many ways preferable to the Spanish version. The book serves as the best introduction to Las Casas in English.

NATIONAL PERIOD

Report of Ramos Arizpe to the Spanish Cortes. Translated and annotated by NETTIE LEE BENSON. [The University of Texas, Institute of Latin-American Studies, Latin-American Studies XI.] (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1950. Pp. xiii, 61. Bibliography, index. Paper.)

Dr. Miguel Ramos de Arizpe, a lawyer and priest, was one of the most influential political leaders of the Mexican War for Independence. He was first a spokesman for reform and later one of the great constitutional fathers of the Republic of Mexico. A native of Coahuila and its representative to the Spanish Cortes, he wrote a detailed *Report* on the four eastern Interior Provinces of New Spain: Coahuila, Nuevo León, Nuevo Santander, and Texas. Students of Mexican history will find this translated and annotated edition of his *Report* a useful document. It serves a triple purpose: first, by giving an excellent description of life along the border; second, as a document which summarizes effectively the internal causes of the War for Independence; and third, as an illustration of the political awareness of a colonial leader and his sound arguments for reform.

Ramos de Arizpe found much to praise in the climate, the production of the land, and the character of the people of the eastern Interior Provinces. But he found education inadequate, commerce hampered by "extraordinary prohibitions," and the government in the hands of an arbitrary, despotic, selfish, and incompetent military which ruled by "force and fear." Having praised the virtues of the people and con-