

tion, roads, general commerce and finance of eighteenth-century New Granada. Nevertheless, by consulting the unabridged editions of the relaciones, the investigator will obtain a more complete economic picture of the area.

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William Robertson and His 'History of America.' By R. A. HUMPHREYS. London, 1954. The Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Councils. Pp. 28.

William Robertson and His 'History of America' is a model of what a good lecture should be. Mr. Humphreys easily dominates the literature of the Enlightenment and presents English-speaking scholars with an excellent annotated sketch of the literary career of the first of the "objective" historians of the Spanish Conquest and Empire.

This lecture will make American historians want to read the *History of America*—something, I dare say, most of them have not yet done. That William Robertson should get £3,500 for the copyright of his "prodigiously successful" Charles V and another £500 in case the work should go into a second edition might be expected to jar these academic historians out of their complacency. In their present plight the historians would need to operate in reverse and put up at least \$3,500. They can draw even less comfort from the realization that in the line of historians of the Spanish Empire who have achieved literary stature there is not a single academic figure.

Humphreys recognizes that Hispanists have long respected Robertson because they have long understood that to him "scrupulous accuracy" was necessary. The Scottish doctor's fruitless effort to get into the archives of Simancas antedated the first considerable use of that depository by 150 years and, by attracting the attention of the Spanish Academy, influenced the creation of the Archives of the Indies in Seville, the greatest collection of papers on American colonial history in the world. If Robertson could not

get at the archives, he could and did criticize the printed sources and interview participants in the American scene, such as the surviving members of La Condamine's expedition to the equator (1735). Under this handicap, Robertson could not achieve the profusion of detail and the depth of human interest that have made Prescott's work such a marvel of survival.

If Robertson lacked the documents he wanted, he did have the good fortune to bring greater fairness and sound sense to the treatment of the Spanish Empire and to insist upon facts rather than systems when systems were as much the mode as in the days of the nominalists and realists. Robertson was more reasonable in handling the Black Legend than Sir Arthur Helps who followed him by three-quarters of a century. He took Buffon and De Pauw seriously, perhaps too seriously, but he did not take them for granted. Humphreys' excellent essay is yet another indication of what can be inferred from Boswell's record of the tour of the Hebrides: the superiority of the Scottish intellectuals in Dr. Johnson's day.

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REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Cartas y mensajes de Santander: Vol. VI, 1826. Compiled by ROBERTO CORTAZAR. Bogotá, 1954. Academia Colombiana de Historia. Indices. Pp. 529.

The latest volume in this meticulously compiled series; it contains writings of Santander during 1826. (J. F.)

Costante Ferrari. Compañero de aventuras de Codazzi. By NICOLAS PERAZZO. Caracas, 1954. Editorial Cromotip. Illustrations. Pp. 68.

One of the great names in the history of Venezuela is that of the Italian Agustin Codazzi, geographer and map maker, who fought with Bolívar's armies as a lieutenant in the artillery. Costante Ferrari and Codazzi spent much of their time and energies in the construction of fortifications on the isle