

Testimonios auténticos acerca de los prodomártires del Japón. Prologue by EDUARDO ENRIQUE RÍOS. Bibliography by AGUSTIN MILLARES CARLO and JULIAN CALVO. Mexico City, 1954. Fondo Pagliai. Illustrations. Pp. cccxxxix, 357.

The Fondo Pagliai deserves to be congratulated for its ambitious and solid undertaking in publishing this rich documentary collection dealing with the martyrdom of Nagasaki on February 5, 1597. Among those crucified were St. Pedro Bautista and St. Philip of Jesus. Not all these documents are unpublished, but a substantial portion is. All are edited with that scrupulous care that we have come to expect of their editors. This spectacular event made a dramatic impression on the Catholic world of the 17th century. Its significance for us, however, lies in the new light it throws on that whole series of political-religious enterprises in the Orient that Spain conducted from her base of operations in the Philippines. Various governors of that colony were anxious to open the door of Japan to Spanish missionary activity. Spanish mendicants from the Philippines and the Portuguese Jesuits who had already established a promising mission in that land frequently worked at cross-purposes. The martyrdom of Nagasaki inaugurated a policy of ruthless suppression of Catholicism in Japan which in turn brought abruptly to an end "the Christian Century." This edition is greatly enhanced by the useful and careful bibliographical essay by Agustín Millares Carlo and Julián Calvo and the prologue of Eduardo Enrique Ríos.

JOHN L. PHELAN

The Newberry Library

Vidas de los navegantes, conquistadores y colonizadores españoles de los siglos XVI, XVII, y XVIII. Tomo III: Colonizadores y fundadores en Indias. By RICARDO MAJO FRAMIS. Madrid, 1954. Aguilar. 101 illustrations. Pp. 1373.

Ultimo volumen de una obra cuyos dos anteriores van dedicados a una

serie de estampas biográficas de 18 navegantes y 22 conquistadores, concebida para divulgación entre el gran público y sometida a un criterio estético más que científico. El autor huye de toda continuidad y cronología en la exposición de los hechos, y busca en cambio los trazos de color, el sentido y el "clima" de cada época o personaje históricos, con el mayor respeto posible a la verdad y con un desprecio absoluto hacia los historiadores científicos, que manifiesta claramente en la parte final del prólogo. Constituyen este volumen una larga serie de biografías y de estampas urbanas, sociales y culturales de las Indias en los siglos XVI al XVIII. Al final del volumen, breve cronología, por países. Indices completos.

GUILLERMO CESPEDES

Universidad de Sevilla

REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Las actas de independencia de América. Edited by JAVIER MALAGON. Prologue by CHARLES C. GRIFFIN. Washington, D. C., 1955. Pan American Union. Pp. xx, 144. \$5.00.

Photostats of originals or, in those cases where the location of the original is not known, contemporary copies of the Independence Acts of the American Republics. The format permits the originals to be read although, to facilitate reading, a printed copy of each is included. The preliminary notes of Dr. Malagón give the facts surrounding the creation of each document and its subsequent history. An interpretative essay by Professor Griffin entitled, "América y sus actas de independencia" completes this beautiful and useful volume. (J.P.H.)

Bolívar. By ALFONSO RUMAZO GONZALEZ. Caracas, 1955. Ediciones Edime. Bibliography. Pp. 403.

A new biography of the Liberator drawn from standard printed sources. No textual documentation. (J.F.)

Documentos históricos. Revolução de 1817. Vol. CI. 1953. Biblioteca Nacional. Divisão de Obras Raras