

space. He could have easily written a thick book that nobody would have time to read; he has instead given us a short one just right for one evening. The result is a study that will be highly useful in understanding nineteenth century Latin America.

The ample footnotes, adequate and unpadding bibliography, and an index, make it a useful guide.

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BAILEY W. DIFFIE

BACKGROUND

Carlos V (1500-1558). Homenaje de la Universidad de Granada. Madrid, 1958. Universidad de Granada. Pp. 676. Paper. 325 ptas.

Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos. Revista Mensual de Cultura Hispánica. Madrid, 1958. Nos. 107-108. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 129-484. Paper. 20 ptas.

It is often said that Charles V, who could not have been less Spanish when he became king of Spain and who spent most of his active life afterwards away from his peninsular realms, gradually acquired Spanish sympathies and a Spanish point of view and ended as a Spaniard by adoption. Whether he did or not, there is no doubt that Spain has adopted him. For one school of Spanish historians the last Caesar to bestride the world like a colossus, and the first Habsburg to rule a polyglot empire from Spain has long been a major culture hero. For the wing of Spanish scholarship predominant since 1945, Charles V has become, even more than his grandmother Isabella or his son, Philip the Prudent, the ideal statesman and the favorite symbol of Spain's historic mission. Consequently, the fourth centenary of the emperor's death, an anniversary which received no more than a polite nod of recognition at Brussels or Bonn or Vienna, was celebrated throughout Spain with a pomp and circumstance rarely accorded to the commemoration of even the most world-shaking historical events.

The two volumes listed above are a part of the literary harvest of these commemorative exercises. The more impressive book, six hundred and seventy-six large, handsomely printed pages, offers, as the homage of the University of Granada to its founder, twenty-five substantial papers on the emperor's life and time, contributed by its faculty and a distinguished array of visiting or corresponding scholars. Meanwhile, without drawing on the Granadan symposium, or on more than four of its contributors, *Cuadernos Hispanoameri-*

canos in an issue devoted entirely to the memory of the emperor, has published another score of serious articles, many of them papers read during the quadricentennial year. Probably these forty-five essays are not more than half those offered in Spain in 1958 to the memory of the last medieval emperor. Even granting the stimulus of the occasion, and deducting merely occasional pieces, this is a surprising volume of scholarly production to be devoted during one calendar year to the reign of a single monarch now four centuries dead.

There are, of course, the whimsies, the literary cream puffs, one of which examines with an air of complete seriousness the private morals of the emperor in terms of the Seven Deadly Sins. And there are the rhetorical set-pieces in which cloudy generalization and oratorical pin-wheels do duty for thought and research. In Spain, how should there not be? But the striking thing is how many of these essays make serious contributions to some special topic, the emperor's attitude towards a specific colonial problem, for instance, or his relations with a minor poet or his representation in a group of medals, contributions which are not only carefully thought out and solidly researched, but modestly and sensibly expressed and competently documented. It is striking, too, that although the foreign contingent contains some of the best known names in the field of Caroline studies, among them Federico Chabod, Peter Rassow and Ernst Reibstein, the Spanish scholars and particularly the younger Spanish scholars do not suffer by comparison. They show an objectivity, a power of analysis, and a sense of the rules of their craft which give one high hopes for the future of Spanish historiography.

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GARRETT MATTINGLY

Introducción a los orígenes de la Observancia en España. Las reformas en los siglos XIV y XV. Madrid, 1958. Publicaciones de Archivo Ibero-Americano. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 956. Paper.

Until much more is known of the history in the Later Middle Ages of the Spanish mendicant orders, we shall continue to be ignorant of the potentially significant degree to which the growth among them of reformist spirituality, missionary conversionism, apocalypticism, and distinctive doctrines of poverty and grace, lies back of their evangelical activities in the Indies and their involvement in the great debates over the salvation and human rights of the American Indian. Extensive as is the present volume, it treats but a single although fundamental aspect of this whole story, that of the precise beginnings and original leadership of the powerful wave of reformist Franciscanism,