

M. Piétri, an eminent French political figure and French ambassador to Spain, 1940-1944, has excused himself from writing a "work of investigation" and specifically acknowledges his debt to various authorities. He uses these authorities to develop a series of sketches, ranging from the thirteenth century to the time of Philip IV and in subject from the "knightly spirit" of Diego Garcia de Paredes' combats with the Chevalier Bayard to the influence of Sor Maria de Agreda on Philip IV. Philip II, the Jesuits, the Council of Trent, Cervantes, and so on, each receive due attention. The thread used to tie these rather diverse elements together is that of Spanish religion, which Piétri thinks shaped and colored the whole *Siglo de oro*. In his last paragraph, the author asks that Spain "in a world devoured by materialism and incredulity remain loyal to the virtues of the *Siglo de oro* which distinguished and honored her."

No historian would question the central importance of religion in Spanish life, especially in the *Siglo de oro*. But surely other factors must be considered. What relation do the politics and economics of sixteenth and seventeenth-century Spain have to its marvelous cultural flowering? Did religion motivate as well as shape its production? Why did it end? Moreover, though M. Piétri advances his thesis many times, he never examines the importance of religion in a rigorous and searching way.

The result is a series of anecdotal episodes of greater or lesser charm and interest which lack the balanced conceptual cement to hold them together. Thus, the work slips into a recounting of names and titles with capsule reflections on literature and art. This condition seriously weakens the book even as a work of popularization.

The book is well illustrated and contains several portraits not commonly seen.

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Wellington y España. By PABLO DE AZCÁRATE. Madrid, 1960. Espasa-Calpe, S.A. Illustrations. Pp. 275.

This is more than a military study. It also deals with Wellington's diplomatic relations with Spain and various Spaniards not only during the Peninsular War but also in the French intervention crisis of 1823, and in the first Carlist War of the 1830's when the Duke was still influential in British politics. For the military part, Azcárate uses a judicious mixture of English, Spanish, and French sources, among the first-named being the Duke's dispatches, Oman's *Peninsular War*, and Lord Stanhope's *Conversations*. The result is a well-balanced work, with the author frequently defending Wellington against the unreasonable charges of Spanish writers who either did not know the Duke's orders from the British ministry or failed to understand the military problems with which he had to grapple. Wellington appears here as he has always appeared; as an innate conservative who usually tempered his prejudices with the common sense called for in the difficult situations confronting him.

Because of the recent theft of the Goya painting of Wellington, Azcárate's descriptions of the several sittings the general had with the great Spanish painter are of timely interest. The posings were interrupted by the intrusions of British officers, to whom Wellington gave peppery and sometimes angry instructions. Goya, who understood no English, was agog with interest and tried to understand these conversations, usually formulating interpretations very wide of the mark.

The book is illustrated with portraits and facsimiles, though maps would have been of more help to the general reader.

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Agricultural History, vol. XXXV, No. 3, July, 1961. Published by the

Agricultural History Society, University of Illinois.

This issue was devoted entirely to early cattle raising in North America. All of the papers were read at The Agricultural History Society's meeting in Dallas, April 18, 1960.

The contents are: "Cattle Raising in Spanish Florida, 1513-1763," by Charles W. Arnade; "Colonial Carolina Cowpens," by Gary S. Dunbar; "The Early History of the Range Cattle Industry in Northern Mexico," by Donald D. Brand; "Cattle and Range Forage in California: 1770-1880," by L. T. Burcham; "Early Cattle Ranges of the Ohio Valley," by Paul C. Henlein; "Origins of the Range Cattle Era in South Texas," by Francis L. Fugate; and "Museum of the Great Plains," by R. Haliburton, Jr.

Several of the articles, together with C. Julian Bishko's "The Peninsular Background of Latin American Cattle Ranching," HAHR, vol. 32, 1952, provide interesting information concerning this vital industry of the colonial era. Arnade has located many of the ranches of Spanish Florida and uncovered 17th century tax records that indicate a substantial cattle industry. Brand has produced a periodization for the development of the cattle industry in northern Mexico. Burcham discusses the range ecology of California during the first century of occupation. Fugate gives an account of the rise and spread of cattle ranching in the vast plains of Texas. Together these articles provide glimpses of one of the fundamental events of the Spanish conquest—the introduction of cattle and horses.

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COLONIAL PERIOD

Cartas de relación de la conquista de la Nueva España escritas por Hernán Cortés al Emperador Carlos V y otros documentos relativos a la con-

quista, años de 1519-1527. Codex Vindobonensis S.N. 1600. Codices Selecti, vol. II. Introduction and bibliography by CHARLES GIBSON. Graz, Austria, 1960. Akadnische Druck-u. Verlagsanstalt. Bibliography. Pp. xxvii, 366.

Purchasers and users of this large and handsome volume will find photographic reproductions, not only of Cortés's five historic *relaciones* to Charles V, but also those of Pedro de Alvarado describing the conquest of Guatemala, an account of the first Pizarro-Almagro reconnaissance toward Peru, dispatches written by Cortés for the Álvaro Saavedra Cerón expedition which followed that of Loaisa to the Moluccas from Mexico, and the instructions to the first five Franciscan friars bound for New Spain in 1523. Users will need to be acquainted with the sixteenth-century Spanish, and even Latin, script, for no translation or printed version accompanies these documents.

In the introduction by Charles Gibson, the well-known authority on early Mexico, there is a brief description of the documents and an explanation of why they are in the österreichischen Nationalbibliothek, the reason being that Kaiser Karl, the addressee, was a Hapsburg and spent as much of his early reign in northern Europe as in Spain. Professor Gibson also says, on the authority of Rudolf Payer von Thurn, former staff clerk of Franz Joseph, that Codex Vindobonensis, S. N. 1600, from which these documents were selected, passed some years of the nineteenth century in Mexico. They were sent by Emperor Franz to his brother Maximilian during the latter's brief occupancy of the Mexican throne, and after Maximilian's execution at Querétaro went through various Mexican hands before returning to Austria. They did not again become the property of the National Library until 1911.

Appended to Gibson's introduction is a bibliography of 235 items including everything of importance ever