

Assets of this book are its dispassionate analyses of the Inquisition (shown to be of far greater evil in spirit than in physical fulfillment), of the reciprocally barbarous war of 1936-1939, and of the Napoleonic intervention. The significance for Spain of Napoleon's ambitions, here observed by a Frenchman, are traditionally underestimated by Spanish historians. It is also fitting that a Frenchman should express the novel opinion that the 18th century was "one of the most brilliant periods in Spain's history" (p. 334). In addition to Goya, there was improved commerce, definite tolerance, and a "fresh and salubrious wind" from France; and in restricting the clergy, Carlos III encouraged the dissemination of revolutionary philosophical thought in Spanish America.

Though he writes for the layman, some readers may find M. Descola's bent for pageantry, color, and anecdote excessive. (Did Carlos V *really* eat thirty-course meals in his dying days at Yuste?) Also noticeable in his earlier book, *The Conquistadors*, a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer flavor is here most prevalent in the chapters on remote periods, where for relative scarcity of fact the imagination luxuriates. Only occasionally does travelogue lingo rear its ugly head later on, e.g., "We must now bid the Spain of Philip V farewell" (p. 334).

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The Spanish Cockpit. An Eye-Witness Account of the Political and Social Conflicts of the Spanish Civil War. By FRANZ BORKENAU. Foreword by GERALD BRENAN. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1963. University of Michigan Press. Ann Arbor Paperback. Glossary. Pp. xiii, 303. Paper. \$2.25.

It is, first, the great good fortune of all students of modern Spain that Franz Borkenau traveled widely in Republican Spain and, second, that the University of Michigan has seen fit to reprint the book which records those travels. In 1936 Borkenau was a German ex-Communist who had not, however, become

obsessed with anti-Communism. He had been brought up as a Catholic; he was well-versed in both Marxist and anarchist doctrine; and he had visited Spain during the 1920's and had some speaking knowledge of the language. The heart of the present book is Borkenau's diary of two journeys to Spain, one from August 5 to September 15, 1936, and the second from mid-January to February 25, 1937. His keen powers of observation, together with his personal background, made for the accurate reporting of significant detail. Borkenau sensed immediately the existence of a "dual regime" in Catalonia: that of the Generalitat and that of the Popular Front militia committees. After a brief visit to the front in Aragon, he was aware of the absurdity of the widely held expectation of his companions that Saragossa would soon fall. In sketching politics both for Madrid and Barcelona, Borkenau saw the important cleavage between those who favored the militia system (anarchists, POUM, and Left Socialists) and those who favored the organization of a regular army (Esquerra, Left Republicans, Prieto Socialists, and Communists). With only two days in Valencia he nevertheless sensed the differences between it and Barcelona: the importance of a rich, conservative peasantry; the lesser force of the regional movement in comparison with Catalan nationalism; the less dogmatic, utopian nature of local anarchist thinking. Borkenau's chapter of conclusions, written in April, 1937, has several brilliant paragraphs, notably those on pp. 282-283, developing parallels between the early phases of the Puritan, Jacobin, and Bolshevik revolutions and the first months of the Spanish War. On the whole, however, the diary observations are much more valuable than the background and concluding chapters. Hasty writing naturally led to a number of small errors which no editor has corrected. Thus Durruti's name is consistently misspelled. The "Major Farrar" referred to (96) is Major Pérez Farras. The "General Molta" in Valencia (114) should be General Martínez Monje. Joaquín Maurín (302), was indeed re-

ported shot in the Franco zone, but actually was only imprisoned there, and now lives peaceably in New York City. Knox College

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COLONIAL PERIOD

Balboa. By ROBERT FARRINGTON. New York, 1963. Avon Book Division. The Hearst Corporation. Pp. 192. Paper. \$.50.

Robert Farrington has made a judicious selection of historical personages and events in writing this epic novel. Reflecting an understanding of early Spanish exploration and conquest in the Americas, he portrays the legendary exploits of one of Spain's most renowned conquistadores, the expedition of Vasco Núñez de Balboa to the South Sea. By this selection Farrington was not only blessed with a dauntless and high type adelantado as his main character, but also with a famous group of followers, such as Francisco Pizarro, as his secondary personages.

Farrington's *Balboa*, which must be evaluated as a novel and not as a scholarly monograph, possesses historical value, particularly for the non-academic historian. Although the author has necessarily relied on an imaginative dialogue, the work graphically reflects an understanding of the Spanish and of the period. The reader is thus vividly impressed with the cruelty, intolerance, and materialism of the conquistadores but simultaneously becomes aware of their deep faith, their recognition of noble Indian traits, and their ability to remain civilized in savage environment. Undoubtedly, the depiction of the role of the dog in the conquest and the oversympathetic characterization of Vasco Núñez are most impressive in this work.

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Pirates, Indians and Spaniards, Father Escobedo's "La Florida." Edited by JAMES W. COVINGTON. Translated by A. F. FALCONES. Foreword by CHAR-

LES W. ARNADE. St. Petersburg, Florida, 1963. Great Outdoors Publishing Company. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Pp. xvi, 174.

For over three centuries Father Escobedo's enormous (over 21,000 lines) poem has awaited publication. Important to the historian, for whom it is a basic source, and to the litterateur—for Escobedo was not a great poet, yet not a poor one either—it deserved publication in the original language. It is to be regretted that this first printed version should be an incomplete, careless, and inaccurate translation. Little better could be expected from the remarkable procedure described by the editor: two ladies (of unstated qualifications) making a hand copy of the manuscript in Madrid, "translating many of the words from 'old' Spanish into the language of the Twentieth Century"; then, a translation made in Tampa by an accountant-notary, "a native of Santander, Spain"; then, a 'checking' by "a native of Cuba who speaks Spanish and English equally well"; and, finally, editing by an American historian who apparently knows little Spanish. (Nowhere is there indication that the translator saw either the manuscript or a photocopy of it.)

This volume has many defects: mistranslation; bad English; inaccurate reference to the original manuscript; frequent misprints; some errors in fact; almost unbelievably bad Spanish orthography.

Mistranslations: Checking casually the first hundred pages of Professor Covington's book with photocopies of the original, this reviewer found some thirty cases. Two examples must suffice: "with two young men by his side" (p. 87); in the manuscript, "con dos moças a los lados" (240r) these being the *daughters* of a shipwrecked Spaniard, as is fully explained in the text. And page 33: "He crossed the sea in such a relaxed manner it seemed as if he were on a mill stone turned by horsepower. Throughout the entire trip . . . he cooked the meals for everyone." This involves a mistranslation of *atahona*. The real meaning is: "He was