

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

GABRIEL JACKSON

### 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