

as relaxed on the voyage as if he were at home in a food shop, cooking all our meals for us" (159r).

Bad English: "the worse of all" (45); "the hostiles" (41, n. 54); "I insisted on working the pumps and to forget the music" (49); "Their shouts was . . ." (75); "Everyone must pay for their crimes" (57).

Inaccurate reference: The numbers inserted to indicate the pages of the manuscript are frequently lacking; others are misplaced. Some twenty errors or omissions appeared in the first 95 pages. Also, the arrangement of the original in *partes* and *cantos* is difficult to perceive in the Covington-Falcones version.

Errors of fact: It is stated that Escobedo "claims he came with the group" (i.e., the Silva expedition to Guale in 1595). This section is one of the few in the poem in which Escobedo does *not* claim personal knowledge of what he tells. Again: Note 47 on page 40 correctly states that "no account lists Escobedo as . . . in the 1595 group leaving Sanlúcar (sic)." But the reference in the text is to a 1587 expedition.

Spanish orthography: *Cartagéna* consistently; also *Miguél*, *Baracósa*; but *Sanlúcar* always, unaccented. Also *Matánzas*; *Juan* and *Juán*; *Hernan Cortéz*; *Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion*; *senor*; *Díos* and *Dios*; etc., etc. It almost seems that the incorrect forms outnumber the correct.

The English exemplifies 'translation English' in some of its least attractive aspects.

Professor Covington's notes, drawn from a variety of sources, provide valuable commentary. If they could be used in connection with a scholarly edition of the original text, they would be invaluable. Professor Arnade's foreword is excellent, summarizing concisely our knowledge of Escobedo and his poem. This is really the best part of the volume.

J. RUS OWRE

University of Miami

*Carlos, The King Who Would Not Die.*

By JOHN LANGDON-DAVIES. Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1963. Prentice-

Hall, Inc. Notes. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 272. \$4.95.

This is a hereditary "who-dunnit." The victim is Charles II, ill-fated biological specimen of Hapsburg inbreeding, who served as the last feeble representative of that dynasty and whose death in 1700 at the age of thirty-nine plunged Europe into the conflict known as the War of the Spanish Succession.

Newspaperman and novelist John Langdon-Davies brings a facile pen to his examination of Spanish history during Charles II's reign, although the result is more like a good mystery story than serious history. The leading characters are reproduced in bold bigger-than-life strokes of the brush. There is poor Juana la Loca, the mad queen, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, whose demented condition, reasons Mr. Langdon-Davies, was compounded by cross breeding; and inter-marriage until Carlos II was the product of two family trees in which Juana la Loca appeared eight times—seven of the eight great-grandparents of Carlos II descended from the mad queen!

Carlos was not a particularly bright child: "defective in speech and subject to fits; teeth which would not meet to masticate the immense burdens that unnatural gluttony threw against them; chronic indigestion; horrible gout . . . all . . . worked together to produce a pathological inability to make up his mind and a tendency to religious gloom which militated against clear political thinking."

Although Charles is the subject of the book, his relations are not neglected. There is his errant father, Philip IV, and Don Juan de Austria, Philip's bastard son; strong-willed Mariana of Austria, the poor king's mother; Marie Louise, Carlos' first wife, said to be a French spy for Louis XIV; and the second wife, María Ana of Neuburg. Through the book there runs a thread of witchcraft, superstition, poison, and the Devil. So fascinated is the author with his material that he spends an entire chapter on the 1680 *auto-de-fé* in Madrid in tones little removed from the Black Legend of yore.

The author is so concerned with the royal bickering and sterility of the king that he fails to note that this part of Spain was not *ALL* of Spain; little is said about the people except that they were invariably hungry. Nothing is said about Spain's American possessions during the reign of Carlos II; perhaps the author cares little about such minor matters. After all, what he is concerned with is the private life of Carlos II. He adds but little to the subject, but his flair for an ironic phrase makes up for his superficial analysis of Spain under Carlos II.

JACK D. L. HOLMES

University of Alabama,  
Birmingham Center

*Zéspedes in East Florida 1784-1790.* By HELEN HORNBECK TANNER. Coral Gables, 1963. University of Miami Press. University of Miami Hispanic American Studies. No. 19. Notes. Illustrations. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 253.

This might not be the most important book published on the borderlands but it is a fine book. Dr. Tanner has a great ability to make the product of original research into a most readable story—she combines wit with scholarship. The fourteen chapters give a vivid picture of Governor Vicente Manuel de Zéspedes y Velasco's term as the first Spanish governor of the second Spanish period (1783-1821) of Florida. Dr. Tanner has a wealth of information about the social life and the customs of this period in Florida, something no one had yet sketched; most books of this period deal with the international conflicts and military raids into Florida. Her chapter entitled "Romantic Springtime, 1785" brings the reader some delightful true love stories which include Spanish boy-English girl situations and vice versa and their complications—and all taken from real Spanish documents never used before.

This was originally a Ph.D. dissertation directed by Dr. Irving Leonard. Every Ph.D. candidate should read this book and note how a history thesis can be made readable without destroying

scholarship. Those of us who (as the reviewer has) have studied with Dr. Leonard know his great stress on style and on making a written product full of life and beauty. Dr. Tanner can only be commended for this book which will also add new data to Spanish Florida history.

CHARLES W. ARNADE

University of South Florida

#### MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN

*José Matías Delgado y el movimiento insurgente de 1811.* By RODOLFO BARÓN CASTRO. San Salvador, 1962. Ministerio de Educación. Biblioteca José Matías Delgado. No. 3. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. 243. Paper.

For twenty-eight days, beginning on November 5, 1811, a handful of creoles held on to the government of San Salvador in the name of Ferdinand VII. Heading the insurrection were such future leaders of Central American independence as Manuel José de Arce and José Matías Delgado, the major religious figure at the Salvadorean capital. A complete failure from the start, the movement was unable to attract support from other localities in the intendancy or provinces of the Guatemalan kingdom. Moreover, Governor General José de Bustamante disarmed the coup by appointing a peace commission which included two prominent creoles from Guatemala City. Welcoming the opportunity to save face, the insurgents reaffirmed their loyalty to Spain; Father Delgado cooperated with the commissioners and subsequently delivered a sermon in which he regretted the uprising. He maintained, nevertheless, that the insurgents had been prompted by a sincere concern for constitutional reform—a common objective throughout the Spanish world since 1808.

Based heavily upon documents from the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, the monograph paints an excellent background to the incident. Among other things, the author reveals the extraordinary degree of self-government and influence enjoyed by colonials in Central America for one reason or