

stylistic interrelation or succession and the relationship to further away located provinces of pottery. This is very well achieved by the excavator and author Wolfgang Haberland. He made this publication an interesting study material, from the viewpoint of ethnology and primitive art in regard to decor of naturalistic or stylized animal forms like monkeys, nosebears, turtles, armadillos, and humans. The publication was stimulated and undertaken by the German Ibero-American Foundation under the able leadership of Professor Dr. Adolf-Abich, Hamburg.

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The Martyrs of Cordoba, 850-859. A Study of the Sources. By EDWARD P. COLBERT. Washington, 1962. The Catholic University of America Press. Studies in Mediaeval History. New Series. Vol. XVII. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 491. Paper.

This study of the varied literary sources of the ninth century martyrdoms of Córdoba makes it clear that the Mozarabic culture of the time was not so limited nor insignificant as scholars once thought. The literature is, to be sure, concerned primarily with ecclesiastical matters—disputes over heresy, martyrdoms, episcopal letters, etc.—but tucked away in each of these sources are gems of information about the intellectual and social conditions of the period. It is worthy of note that there are no Arabic counterparts of these Christian Latin writings.

Beyond the primary intent of the author scrupulously to analyze the sources he has endeavored successfully to enhance their meaning by placing them in an historical tradition and context. While there were more than fifty Christians who gained the martyr's palm, there was by no means a purge of Christians in general, only of those who for one reason or another made themselves openly obnoxious to their Moslem rulers. As limited as the persecution was, however, Colbert holds it to be the major event of the time and a signal for the beginning of the

end of Moslem rule in Spain in that it revealed a basic incompatibility between the two groups. There is a great deal of all sorts of information here that will be helpful for those not well acquainted with the period.

While Colbert may rightly take pride in the substance of his research there are evident some flaws in execution. Lapses from effective style, syntactical errors (e.g., dangling participles), curious word usage (e.g., "refer back"), and the random character of mention of facets of social history (e.g., property rights of women, rate of growth of Christian numbers), all tend to vitiate the presentation. Perhaps Colbert will find it possible to turn his attention to the social history of Córdoba and to assimilate his findings. His mastery of the sources, witnessed here, is the warrant for that undertaking.

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Nicolás Bautista Monardés. Su vida y su obra. By FRANCISCO GUERRA. México, 1961. Compañía Fundidora de Fierro y Acero de Monterrey, S.A. Bibliography. Indices. Plates 105. Pp. 226. \$12.50.

This meticulous and well-documented study of Nicolás Monardés (1493-1588) amplifies fragmentary 19th- and 20th-century works which deal mainly with curious and exotic aspects of his investigations.

The best known medico of 16th-century Spain, his writings on American drug plants were translated into Latin, English, French, Italian, German, Flemish. He was born in Seville, studied medicine in Alcalá de Henares, but returned to Seville for his doctorate. He was tremendously interested in the plant cargoes of ships from America, and studied the botany, pharmacology, and toxicology of many. Of his seven children, three went to America. He had business ventures there which bankrupted him, but he later recovered, due to landed properties at home, his lucrative medical practice, and profits from his published writings.

His medical doctrine was rational;