

Enterprise & Empire: Merchant and Gentry Investment in the Expansion of England 1575-1630. By THEODORE K. RABB. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1967. Harvard University Press. Tables. Bibliography. Appendix. Index. Pp. xii, 420. \$12.50.

While the subject matter of this book is of only peripheral interest to Latin Americanists, they should pay some attention to the techniques displayed therein, for these are likely to be of great service to historians of all fields. Having undertaken a conventional biography of Sir Duncan Sandys, Rabb was struck with the knight's immersion in mercantile ventures at the end of his life and decided to study the role of all English gentry in Elizabethan and Jacobean capitalism. Before he knew it, he found himself feeding names and data into a computer, as he tried at one end to distinguish among the many John Smiths and William Greens who held stock, and at the other end to make some sense out of the cumulation.

His conclusions are provocative. While "the merchants were clearly the vital driving force behind England's expansion" (p. 68), the gentry played a crucial role by speculating in the less profitable ventures, which might otherwise have never gotten off the ground. Among the companies in which the gentry formed a remarkably large part of the membership were the Massachusetts Bay (31.6%), New England (83.9%), and Virginia (44.7%) Companies. The Latin Americanist will have a greater professional interest in other companies on this gentry-sponsored list—the Guiana (84.8%) and Providence Island (85.0%) Companies (table, p. 30).

The heart of the book is Rabb's explanation of his computer techniques and a massive appendix listing the bygone knights and their hopeful investments. Toilers in the Archivo de Indias and throughout the Western Hemisphere may well take notice.

D. M. P.

The California Missions. Text and photographs by HANS W. HANNAU. Mu-

nich, 1966. Wilhelm Andermann Verlag. Panorama Books. Illustrations. Chart. Pp. 61. \$3.25. (Distributed in U. S. by Doubleday and Company, Garden City.)

This latest in a plethora of books and brochures on the Franciscan missions of California is easy to recommend to the casual and moderately inquisitive reader. It forms one in a large series called Panorama Books, printed in Munich and distributed by Doubleday in the United States. It is evident that Hans W. Hannau, who is credited with both the excellent color photography and the writing of the text, intended to produce a terse and accurate account of the twenty-one missions which were founded, 1769-1823, from San Diego in the south to Sonoma in the north. This reader could find no substantial error in the text. He shares what he feels will be the opinion of others that the photographs in color make the little book a distinguished addition to the literature of the missions designed for those who wish only the essentials of this fascinating story.

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The Natural and Human History of Baja California. From Manuscripts by Jesuit Missionaries. Translated and edited by HOMER ASCHMANN. Los Angeles, 1966. Dawson's Book Shop. Baja California Travels Series, 7. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Pp. 101. \$10.00.

The Jesuit missionaries in Baja California some two centuries ago, educated men isolated from their equals, frequently wrote long letters to their peers describing the natives and the local geography—probably to stimulate their intellectual adrenalin. This volume is a selection from their writings, learned comments long buried and unavailable. Anthropologists and geographers will find in the work an excellent source of information on the quaint and curious customs of the aborigines and the amazing ignorance of educated Europeans