

settlements in the New World. The cultural background of those settlements and the art and artists which they imported were products of the Spain described in these two volumes.

Post was one of the last scholars to practice a technique of art history which emphasized the reconstruction of individual masters by a study of the human types, drapery, landscapes, chiaroscuro, and compositions which they painted. His knowledge of iconography was profound. Thus his volumes provide a special kind of history—i.e., attempts to recreate the personalities, intellectual abilities, and training of particular individuals and to show the kinds of contacts which they established with teachers, patrons, or other individuals and the artistic results of all of these factors. With the copious illustrations provided such history is very concrete.

The volumes are well produced and illustrated in black and white. There are detailed notes and excellent bibliographies in both volumes.

University of Texas

TERENCE GRIEDER

*Aspects de la société marchande de Séville au début du XVIIe siècle.*

By MICHÈLE MORET. Introduction by PIERRE CHAUNU. Paris, 1967. Editions Marcel Rivière et Cie. Maps. Charts. Tables. Notes. Index. Pp. 115. Paper. Fr. 10.00 (French).

From some eighty legajos at Simancas relating to Seville in the years 1599-1620 which Pierre Chaunu did not use in his *Séville et l'Atlantique*, this pupil of his has produced a valuable complement to the *magnum opus*. The data assembled by Mlle. Moret are drawn largely from correspondence of local royal officials with Madrid. They are concerned especially with the numbers, activities, and governmental supervision of the French, English, Scottish, Dutch, and Flemish merchants trading at Seville and with the Crown's efforts to regulate and protect the city's large-scale trade with northern Europe.

Since Seville was the great entrepôt for products and treasure of the Indies moving to the North, the study is especially illuminating on numerous metropolitan features of the commerce with the American colonies. Among these are the foreign mercantile communities in Seville, the royal fiscal and military organization of the whole Lower Guadalquivir region, and the annual fluctuations of ship arrivals and departures in the transfer of New World commodities to the big northern European centers. Other foci are the conjunctural effects of war and foreign policy upon Sevillian trade and the city's continuing commercial vitality in the years under Philip III before

the outbreak of the Thirty Years War. All these subjects receive skillful attention in this informative, lucidly presented monograph.

University of Virginia

C. J. BISHKO

*La Real Academia Sevillana de Buenas Letras en el siglo XVIII.* By FRANCISCO AGUILAR PIÑAL. Madrid, 1966. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Anejos de Revista de Literatura. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xix, 392.

Most students of Spanish history recognize the important influence of institutions such as the Real Academia de la Lengua or the Real Academia de la Historia. Unfortunately, other academies of lesser fame, but perhaps of equal importance collectively, are little known to students of Spanish history. With admirable diligence Aguilar Piñal has consulted the papers of some twenty archives to give us a careful and comprehensive picture of the history, personnel, and scholarly work of a Sevillian counterpart to these national academies. Founded in 1751, the Real Academia Sevillana de Buenas Letras met regularly until 1808. Refounded in 1820, it continues in activity to the present day.

The author begins by tracing in a general way the academy movement in Spain and particularly in Seville. Next come biographical sketches of the founding members, and these are followed by three chapters on the internal organization and history of the academy until 1808. The most interesting and significant part of the book is the second half, devoted to evaluating the intellectual activity of the academy. Here the author considers the content of dissertations read before the academy, the publications of its members, and, in general, the intellectual role and orientation of the academy and its members.

His principal findings can be given under three headings. First, during the second half of the eighteenth century there appeared in the indolent and tradition-bound capital of Andalucía an important center of the Enlightenment at this academy, which "cooperated passionately with the government in the enterprise of national restoration" (p. 281). Second, though religiously orthodox, even at the end of the eighteenth century, these academicians "saw themselves as disciples of Feijóo and, as such, moderate skeptics, experimental philosophers, and furious anti-scholastics" (p. 278). Third, the academicians constituted a part of the "intellectual middle class . . . composed of lawyers, merchants, artisans, functionaries, men of finance, and philosophers," whose manner of life and values contrasted radically with the nobility of Spain (p. 218).