

us as a representative case study of the unusual men who emerged in the borderlands to make imperial and colonial history.

Only a couple of petty complaints must be mentioned along with the well-deserved praise of this useful book. Surely some readers will wish that the author had included more maps to help them follow Bowles' many activities and movements during his two decades of significance. The author should also have divided his chapters with some type of sub-heading or separation which would facilitate the study of lengthy sections. Except for these insignificant criticisms, scholarly readers will certainly recognize the importance of *William Augustus Bowles* to the historiography of the colonial borderlands.

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*Spanish War Vessels on the Mississippi, 1792-1796.* By ABRAHAM P. NASATIR. New Haven, 1968. Yale University Press. Yale Western Americana Series. Notes. Index. Pp. viii, 359. \$10.00.

Abraham P. Nasatir has devoted a full, rich scholarly career to borderland history. This book makes still another contribution to that field.

The work is in two parts. In the first section Nasatir narrates the course of Spanish military and naval activities on the Mississippi, 1792-1796. In the second he has translated and annotated four documents written by participants in the events of the period. The first of these is the diary of Pedro Rousseau, who commanded a squadron of Spanish galleys plying the Mississippi from Natchez to New Madrid in late winter and early spring 1793. The second is the diary of Captain Juan Barnó y Ferrúsola of the Spanish galiot, *La Flecha*, sailing up river from Natchez to New Madrid and back to Nogales, 1793-1794. Governor Gayoso de Lemos' long account of his expedition to the Illinois country, April-December 1795, and his report concerning Spanish outposts on the northern reaches of the Mississippi conclude this section.

All of these have been published before. Lawrence Kinnaid translated the first in the *American Historical Review* in 1945; Jack D. L. Holmes published the other three in Spanish in his *Documentos inéditos para la historia de Luisiana, 1792-1810*. Why do them again? Nasatir argues that Kinnaid was not literal enough in his translation of the Rousseau diary, and that Holmes left out lines or corrected the original texts. Thus he has set the record scrupulously straight with his exact, literal translations and copious annotations. For Nasatir history is objective reality, the narrative record of what actually

happened. In this work his careful, meticulous scholarship, which at times borders on the pedantic, comes close to achieving his conception of the historian's craft.

Unfortunately—and this is a subjective judgment—the documents hardly seem worth Nasatir's efforts. All but the short Gayoso report are dull and tedious. Rousseau and Barnó y Ferrúsola were more concerned with the weather (as well they might be) than with the overall course of events on the Mississippi. Gayoso's diary is a bit more interesting, especially his description of St. Louis, but in the end it is only Nasatir's straightforward narrative introduction which rescues the documents.

Two minor criticisms seem warranted. The texts of both the narrative and the diaries mention a host of geographical sites. Without maps it is almost impossible to follow the movement of the various Spanish fleets, even with the author's long footnoted descriptions. Second, drawings of the different types of Spanish ships and launches on the Mississippi would have better fulfilled the expectations explicit in the title of the book. The only illustration is of Gayoso's galiot of 1798. In sum, while Nasatir's narrative and translations do not provide vital new perspectives, they correct old errors concerning Spanish activities on the Mississippi at the end of the eighteenth century.

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*Kino Writes to the Duchess. Letters of Eusebio Francisco Kino, S. J., to the Duchess of Aveiro.* Edited by ERNEST J. BURRUS, S. J. Rome, 1965. Jesuit Historical Institute. Sources and Studies for the History of the Americas, I. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 290. Paper. \$4.20.

*Ducrué's Account of the Expulsion of the Jesuits from Lower California (1767-1769).* Edited by ERNEST J. BURRUS, S.J. Rome, 1967. Jesuit Historical Institute. Sources and Studies for the History of the Americas, II. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. vii, 212. Paper. \$4.20.

With these two volumes Ernest J. Burrus, S.J., begins the publication of a new series which is to include both documents and essays in English related to the colonial religious history of the Americas. The list of proposed volumes, given in the introductory note to the first volume, indicates that most of the volumes are to be devoted to the history of the colonial Jesuit missions, especially those of Mexico. A