

Freire Castrillón, and Francisco de Sales Rodríguez de la Bárcena, to whom some were addressed and who promoted their dissemination.

Cristina Torra's study of Bartolomé José Gallardo and his *Diccionario crítico burlesco* is an expanded reaffirmation of Rafael Vélez' thesis about the effect of Gallardo's 1812 work on what happened at Cádiz, Vélez regards it as another demonstration of how the "reformers" in the Cortes supported those authors who attacked religion in order to influence public opinion against it. In the early stages of the episode, Gallardo, a liberal polemicist and the librarian of the Cortes, was imprisoned and suspended from his position, but later he won the support of many of the deputies, was freed, and returned to his position. A few American deputies, including the Peruvian, José Mejía Lequerica (not Mexican, as on p. 239), participated in this affair, which consumed many hours of debate in the Cortes.

Warren M. Diem compares the Constitution of Cádiz, article by article, not only with the 1791 French Constitution (as Vélez did) but also with those of 1793 and 1795 and with that of Bayonne (1808). He concludes that the deputies at Cádiz worked with and borrowed from all four—not just from the 1791, as Vélez had asserted. Like other traditionalists Diem seems to hold the belief that because the Constitution of Cádiz resembles the French constitutions it cannot have evolved in any way from Spanish tradition.

These four studies were presented under the direction of Professor Federico Suárez for the degree of licentiate at the University of Navarre. Each is documented, but the book is devoid of both indexes and bibliography. Contrary to the implication of the title, these studies have only a peripheral relation to the Cortes and only one, the third, contains any reference to American participation in that body. Except for the bibliographical data which are dispersed and difficult of access, little new information for the scholar is to be found here.

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COLONIAL AND INDEPENDENCE PERIODS

Historia universal de las exploraciones. Vol. I: *De la prehistoria al fin de la edad media*. Vol. II: *El renacimiento (1415-1600)*. Vol. III: *El tiempo de los grandes veleros*. Edited by L. H. PARIAS. Madrid, 1967-1968. Espasa-Calpe. Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Bibliographies. Indices. Pp. 425, 419, 376.

These books, originally four volumes published in France, 1955-1956, represent an extended attempt to relate the details of all discoveries since the beginning of the world. Under the editorship of Louis-Henri Parias, five French scholars have made their contributions in the three volumes in Spanish submitted for review. All of the volumes are very generously illustrated with black-and-white and color reproductions and fold-out maps. Convenient marginal notations facilitate skimming.

Volume I contains three sections: *La Prehistoria* by L.-R. Nougier; *La Antigüedad* by Jean Beaujeu; and *La Edad Media* by Michel Mollat. The first volume also includes the inevitable *Argumento* in which the editor likens Henry the Navigator to John the Baptist in the history of explorations, an indication and a sample of a writing style which can only be termed churrigueresque. Much of this volume may be dismissed by some purists, for, axiomatically, the material is speculative, and every historiographer should heed the admonition: No evidence, no history.

The second volume is by a single author, Jean Amsler, and concerns the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century explorations and conquests of the Spaniards and Portuguese, the latter probably receiving more recognition than would otherwise be extended, because the author is French. The final chapters are devoted to the French, the English, and the Russians, an allocation which strikes one as having been an afterthought. The usual economic and ideological motivations are advanced. Columbus' voyages receive little more than one-tenth of the book, and this is indicative of the depth of the treatment.

Volume III, written by Pierre-Jacques Charliat, encompasses the period 1600 to 1815, the years of lesser importance, "una época de retroceso" in which "el contable tiene un papel predominante . . ." (p. 9). The elements of danger and of the unknown had largely passed. This volume is the widest reaching of the three: from Henry Hudson to Cook, Bougainville, and La Pérouse; from India, China, Africa, South America to the North Pole!

This work contains no documentation whatsoever. Very inadequate bibliographies are provided at the end of each volume (Volume I has a bibliography at the conclusion of each section); and there are no indices. The historical narratives are sound and reliable. However, I do not know who would purchase these volumes or to whom to recommend them other than Spanish-reading laymen who are fascinated with tales of discovery and adventure—and they would be

better served by well-written monographs. Certainly the specialist will seek in vain for anything new or helpful.

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Sins of the Fathers. A Study of the Atlantic Slave Traders, 1441-1807. By JAMES POPE-HENNESSY. New York, 1968. Alfred A. Knopf. Borzoi Books. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 286. \$7.95.

James Pope-Hennessy's book is less comprehensive than its title implies. It is chiefly concerned with the English slave trade from the Guinea Coast and the Niger delta to the West Indies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It makes only passing reference to the somewhat differently organized trade from Angola to Brazil and to the complex arrangements for supplying slaves to Spanish America. Scelle's classic *Traite négrière*, for example, is not mentioned. The book sheds no light on business organization or financing; it is not an essay in economic history. It consists mainly of word-pictures describing conditions in the trade and drawn from the published accounts of people either engaged in it or devoted to its suppression. The author has ransacked the English literature on this topic thoroughly; the familiar accounts of horrors—and, to this reviewer at least, one or two unfamiliar ones—are rehearsed; and as usual in reading such accounts, one is amazed at the calm acceptance of horrors by men who were not all brutes or monsters.

In endeavoring to explain this acceptance, Pope-Hennessy understates the complexity of English attitudes towards the trade; it is unfortunate that he was not able to consult Douglas Grant's recent fascinating book *The Fortunate Slave* (Oxford, 1968). Similarly, Pope-Hennessy gives the impression, perhaps inadvertently, that revulsion against the trade began with a few eighteenth-century Englishmen. There was always in Europe, at least from the sixteenth century, an undercurrent of hostility to African slaving; but Pope-Hennessy makes no mention of Tomás de Mercado, or of Alonzo de Sandoval, whose *Naturaleza. . . de todas Etiopes* (Seville, 1627) is not only a mine of anthropological information, but one of the ablest denunciations of slavery ever written.

With all these limitations, the book makes an undeniable impact. The author writes with a fierce, unsentimental indignation. He is a very good describer of places and has been to the places he describes. Anyone remembering the crashing surf and stinging sand of Badagry, or the creepy, clammy labyrinths of the Delta, must feel a start of