

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

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MARTIN TORODASH

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

recognition in reading Pope-Hennessy's descriptions of these ill-omened places.

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José de Evia y sus reconocimientos del Golfo de México, 1783-1796.

Edited by JACK D. L. HOLMES. Madrid, 1968. Ediciones José Porrúa Turanzas. Colección Chimalistac. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Appendix. Index. Pp. xvi, 264. Paper.

José de Evia, or as he is better known in Louisiana, Josef de Hevia, was born in La Graña in the north of Spain during 1740. His father had sailed and mapped the gulf coast of Louisiana in 1736, and Josef entered the Royal naval school at El Ferrol in 1753. He spent most of his life as a pilot and chart maker and took part in the naval activities of Spain during the War of the American Revolution. Since he was an experienced explorer, Bernardo de Gálvez commissioned him to chart the coast of the Gulf of Mexico from Tampico to Florida to correct the inaccurate naval charts used for navigation. This Evia did between 1783 and 1786. He was also active in the expedition commanded by Rousseau to apprehend William Augustus Bowles and bring him to New Orleans in 1792. Later Evia was captain of the part of New Orleans. Despite his half-century in the service of Spain, he never reached any higher position. His maps were good and were used when Lángara's map was made in 1799, on which the Spanish commissioners later relied in the border diplomacy between Spain and the United States.

The volume under review is not a biography of Evia. It is a collection of documents relating to Evia's charting of the coasts and ports along the Gulf coast from Tampico to Florida. The volume is divided into six chapters, the first devoted to a few facts about the life of Evia most of which the editor had published earlier. The latter part was somewhat confusing to this reviewer, for Holmes writes of the sons of Evia, and it is at times unclear whether he is writing of Evia or his sons. Nor is sufficient emphasis given to the importance and effect of José de Evia's work. In the latter respect Holmes did better in his earlier published account of Evia's work at Tampa Bay, which he published in *Tequesta*.

Chapters Two to Five deal with Evia's work of charting and exploring and constitute the most important part of the volume. Dividing his work in sections, the author gives the "diary" of Evia drawn chiefly from the archives of Mexico and supports each section