

the best collections of documents, secondary works, and many manuscripts, some of which he himself has been the first to use effectively. This reviewer frankly envies him his art in weaving complicated threads of history into an understandable tapestry. No serious student can fail to appreciate and profit from the reading of this work. With no effort whatever to write in a popular fashion or for a general reader, Boxer nevertheless achieves an easy narrative style that keeps the reader's interest. If he sometimes seems to mention too casually the finding of Carthaginian coins in the Azores or Roman coins in Venezuela, as possible evidence for the pre-Christian discovery of America, or slips up on dates, such as 1496 instead of 1495 for the beginning of Manuel's rule, these are but nearly invisible cracks in a generally magnificent structure.

From the practical viewpoint of the teacher, it may be noted that those interested in the New World will find the chapters dealing with slavery, sugar, the struggle with the Dutch, Brazil in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, royal patronage of the Church, racial relations, town government, and the merchants, can all be used as text material. Equally so, those interested in Africa and the East can find readings suitable for their students.

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BAILEY W. DUFFIE

The Four Voyages of Christopher Columbus. Edited and translated by J. M. COHEN. Baltimore, 1969. Penguin Books. Maps. Notes. Pp. 319. Paper. \$1.75.

This collection of documents and writings is a generally successful attempt to delineate the character of Columbus and give the flavor of the first Spanish contacts with the New World. It includes pertinent letters by Columbus himself, selections from Hernando Colón, Bartolomé de las Casas, and G. Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés, and two especially interesting accounts of men who accompanied Columbus on his second and fourth voyages. All are interwoven so as to present a connected rather than a comparative account.

As the rather unsympathetic editor points out in his introduction, Columbus emerges as a man with little formal training in navigation but a good deal of natural aptitude. His stubbornness in holding to fantastic geographical theories was heightened by an exaggerated sense of supernatural destiny and a belief that he was receiving direct revelation. The editor's contention that Columbus was completely inept at handling men is less well supported by the documents, which

make clear that Columbus fully understood the totally rapacious nature of his followers.

The most important secondary theme is the Spanish treatment of the Indians. From the first contact, deceiving the natives into a sense of false security was the sole motive for Spanish kindness, a kindness that was followed by treachery whenever expedient. When the natives reciprocated, the Spaniards found the Indian attitude incomprehensible.

It is unfortunate that the introduction and notes do not measure up to the documents. The introduction gives only a hint of the historiographical conflict concerning the voyages, with which the probable reader of this volume is not likely to be familiar. The notes are sometimes misleading. For example (p. 129), the editor states that the second expedition included "twelve to fifteen thousand men." This is so patently ridiculous that it can scarcely be regarded as a mere slip.

In spite of these faults, the book should be useful in undergraduate classes, particularly if used on a comparative basis with the Jamestown experience. The parallels are striking.

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LOREN E. PENNINGTON

Magellan's Voyage: A Narrative Account of the First Circumnavigation. 2 vols. By ANTONIO PIGAFETTA. Translated and edited by R. A. SKELTON. New Haven, 1969. Yale University Press. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 195 (Vol. I). \$100.00.

The Voyage of Magellan: The Journal of Antonio Pigafetta. Translated by PAULA SPURLIN PAIGE. Introduction by HOWARD H. PECKHAM. Englewood Cliffs, 1969. Prentice-Hall. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Pp. xvii, 149. \$14.95.

The 450th anniversary of the date when a three-year voyage began is not one to which I would ordinarily attach significance. Nevertheless, two commemorative volumes on Magellan's voyage appeared in 1969. They are slightly different versions of Antonio Pigafetta's *Relation*, the only important primary source material concerning the first circumnavigation of the globe. Pigafetta was a young gentleman of Vicenza who sailed with Magellan as a supernumerary (*sobresaliente*) with no defined duties. Fortunately for posterity, he had an inquisitive nature, a good ear, and the industry to write down all that he saw or heard about on the voyage. He also