

Celestina to that of Don Quixote. The author uses “dynasty” in the sense of an intellectual construct. Though there may be more reality in wealth of a Genoese family and their heirs having made good, I presume the debate will never cease between the bookkeeping author of the *Book of Privileges* and the seer of the *Book of Prophecies*.

Much intriguing material in this work on the Caribbean islands is relegated to the footnotes, which should be read with care. People and places are simply too many for all to appear on stage or to take on much color, though the author cannot be faulted about where he is at any given point. On who is against whom and why, one has to pay as close attention as to a Spanish family political conversation today.

The first part of the book will gain praise or provoke criticism in proportion to the specialized information and resulting prejudice that many people who will read it will bring to it, as did this reviewer. The second part is a commendable step into a void. Here we have made available in English a large amount of data, some still controversial, which have been scattered about far and wide. The history of the early church and mission, and the reference to non-American concerns of Castile where they impinge upon the Caribbean situation, are expertly handled and exceptionally well placed. Our knowledge of the integration of the Caribbean story with that of the mainland empire has made a visible advance. In conclusion it is safe to predict that considering the drift of interest, this book is easily overtaken, but it will not be overlooked.

Three useful appendices are a list of governors of the Caribbean islands, a table of the Royal Fifth of Gold sent to Spain compiled from a variety of sources, and a list of the Royal Fifth of Pearls sent to Spain from Cubagua and environs. Maps of the islands and an Index complete the useful accessory material.

Yale University

URSULA LAMB

Christopher Columbus. By ERNLE BRADFORD. New York, 1973. The Viking Press. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 288. Cloth. \$16.95.

It is not often that a beautifully illustrated book is complemented with equally beautiful word imagery; Bradford successfully matches the splendid color plates of Caribbean seascapes and Mediterranean port scenes with a fine evocation of Genoa at sunset, of the “slop and sigh” of waves beating against Columbus’s caravels at La Navidad,

and of eyes aching from constant scanning of “an ocean that bounced with wavy light.” The chief merits of the work lie in the author’s rounded and appreciative character analysis of Columbus, with his unshakeable faith in Providence, his extraordinary persistence in the face of hopeless odds, and his less admirable “ambition flecked with cupidity.” Bradford’s close identification with Columbus, his carefully drawn character portraits of the Navigator, and his own first-hand knowledge of the sea raise the book above the merely popular. Comparable to Morison’s *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* in its scope and outlook and in its nautical expertise, Bradford’s work is less concerned with details of the broader history and delves deeper into Columbus’s motives, using less technical and more poetic language than Morison’s.

For the scholar, this book commends itself mainly as good literature and pictorial art; it does not attempt to make important corrections to our present historical knowledge and necessarily ignores a voluminous literature that would have spared the author a number of small factual errors and probably reshaped a few of his easy generalizations.

University of New Mexico

TROY FLOYD

La ville de São Paulo. Peuplement et population, 1750-1850, d'après les registres paroissiaux et les recensements anciens. BY MARIA-LUIZA MARCILLO. Preface by MICHEL FLEURY and LOUIS HENRY. Paris, 1973. Presses Universitaires de France. Maps. Tables. Figures. Facsimiles. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 243. Paper.

This book examines the demographic history of the city of São Paulo in the period 1750-1850. It is more than a simple recounting of the changes in the size and structure of the population; it contains useful information on the availability of source material and descriptions of techniques to analyze them.

Marcilio primarily draws on two types of documents. The archives of São Paulo’s central Freguesia da Sè parish list the baptisms, marriages, and deaths recorded by the local priests. Vital statistics in Brazil, as in most Catholic countries, had not yet been secularized, and the Church gave a certain degree of uniformity to the collection of these data. The other type is the various censuses carried out by royal, ecclesiastical, military, and local authorities. They covered different areas and contained different sorts of information. The most reliable ones were for the years 1765, 1798 and 1836.

Some general problems apply to all these records. Many documents were in poor physical condition. The slave population tended