

ing of rents, the restoration of liberty together with the abolition of the Inquisition, and the dismissal of the foreign ministers of the king.

The work also discusses some of the literature officially approved for publication in this period. These include the works of Padre Benito Gerónimo Feijóo who sought to incorporate the insights of the sciences and philosophies of that day into his theological views. Padre Feijóo later became influential in various Latin American universities. He remains as one of the major representatives of the Gallegan culture for many Latin Americans.

There were equally rigorous laws imposed on the printing and importation of books in the Spanish colonies in the Americas. Although there was greater difficulty in circulating banned books in the Spanish colonies, ways were found to secure and to circulate on a limited basis some of these forbidden works. But severe penalties were inflicted on persons found to have such works in their possession. In most instances wider access in Hispanic America to the ideas of eighteenth and nineteenth-century Europe came about through the changes that occurred during and after the wars of independence.

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COLONIAL AND INDEPENDENCE PERIODS

Los escribanos en las Indias occidentales, y en particular en el reino de Guatemala. By JORGE LUJÁN MUÑOZ. Guatemala, 1977. Instituto Guatemalteco de Derecho Notarial. Diagrams. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. xxv, 224. Paper.

The *escribanos* or scribes of colonial Spanish America have left much documentation on the juridical, economic, political, social, and cultural aspects of contemporary society which are valuable sources of history barely tapped until recently. These notarial records, or *protocolos*, provide the text of a wide variety of transactions such as contracts of many kinds, orders for goods, bills of sale, bills of lading, *recibos* of imported wares, wills, testaments, inventories, and the like. In the past, much written history derived from extant legislation, but these *protocolos* often supply information closer to the historical reality. Their utility for economic and social history is evident in such

valuable studies as Frederick P. Bowser's *The African Slave Trade in Colonial Peru: 1524-1650*, and for biographical data in such works as James Lockhart's *The Men of Cajamarca*. Contracts between architects and artists and their clients frequently contain illuminating details, technical and personal, which sometimes help to identify a surviving work. And the records of book orders, receipts, and inventories reveal a remarkable diversity of literature available to colonial readers, thus demonstrating the falsity of the alleged obscurantism of Spanish rule.

In the first four chapters of this brief monograph, the author describes the general origin, nature, qualifications, practices, and the hierarchy of the *escribanos*. The last four chapters and appendixes are more narrowly concerned with these officials in Guatemala, though chapter 7 gives an interesting discussion of the importance of the *protocolos* as sources of historical investigations.

The office of *escribano*, which initiated in 1559 the dubious practice of office-selling by the crown, is mentioned in the *Siete Partidas* as in two categories: one, a kind of secretariat for the royal house; and two, *escribanos públicos*, to record ordinary transactions in the cities and towns. The first grew into the bloated bureaucracy of imperial Spain, while the second multiplied with the expansion of overseas settlements. This is a well documented monograph on a neglected subject; it emphasizes the humbler, public *escribanos* and their practices which supply interesting details and insights into the daily life of colonial Spanish American society.

University of Michigan

IRVING A. LEONARD, EMERITUS

The Vision of the Vanquished: The Spanish Conquest of Peru through Indian Eyes, 1530-1570. By NATHAN WACHTEL. Translated by BEN and SIÂN REYNOLDS. New York, 1977. Barnes and Noble Books. Illustrations. Tables. Diagrams. Glossary. Notes. Bibliography. Maps. Appendixes. Indexes. Pp. 328. Cloth. \$25.00.

Popularization is an important intent of the present book since its author devotes much effort to direct reproduction of the ideas and research of other scholars—John V. Murra, R. T. Zuidema, Claude Lévi-Strauss, and Miguel León-Portilla, to mention only some of the most prominent. Even the title is taken, without specific acknowledgment, from León-Portilla's *Visión de los vencidos*. Nevertheless, the book is