

of the essays includes a thorough bibliography, and most begin with a review of important literature. The collection thus will be of particular interest to readers interested in further research in any of the areas it covers.

The essays are uniformly well written. They are scholarly but (mostly) free of unintelligible jargon, and Robertson's overviews are valuable in establishing a philosophical continuity among the contributors. The topics range widely, covering aspects of historical musicology, ethnomusicology, music and dance performance traditions, anthropology, folklore, and mythology. The assessment of such a collection is beyond the scope of any single scholar, but as for my own discipline (historical musicology), I found the contributions to be quite lucid. Dorothy Keyser's essay, "The Character of Exploration: Adrian Willaert's 'Quid non ebrietas,'" was especially interesting and well researched.

It would be easy to overlook this collection in the flood of publications celebrating the Quincentenary, but any reader interested in the musical impact of the confluence of cultures in this pivotal era will find these essays thought-provoking and enlightening.

KEN KEATON, Florida Atlantic University

Colonial Period

Historia del Derecho Indiano. By ISMAEL SÁNCHEZ BELLA, ALBERTO DE LA HERA, and CARLOS DÍAZ REMENTERÍA. Madrid: MAPFRE, 1992. Tables. Bibliographies. Index. 407 pp. Paper.

Its lack of preface or any explicit declaration of aims notwithstanding, this book has certainly failed in its presumed intention of offering a new and refreshing overview of the Derecho Indiano, the legal system that prevailed in Spanish America throughout the colonial period. By drawing major attention to well-known aspects like bureaucracy, legislative codification, and the relations between church and state, this volume represents little progress indeed compared to the publications of Rafael Altamira, José María Ots Capdequí, Antonio Muro Orejón, Alfonso García Gallo, or Juan Manzano Manzano, Spanish scholars who have previously interpreted the colonial jurisprudential establishment. Only about a fourth of the volume is devoted to factual questions in the areas of landholding, mining, trade, navigation, and day-to-day litigation. The authors' principal achievement therefore consists in their bibliographical annotations, which include many useful references to recent works.

A rather neat thematic distinction should be made among the chapters presented by the contributors, three Spanish university instructors who specialize in the Derecho Indiano. Sánchez Bella, of Pamplona, delivers a brief historiographical survey and two complementary essays dealing with primary legislative sources and the governmental structure of the Indies. De la Hera, of Madrid, by contrast,

focuses on the background and character of the Spanish overseas dominion and on the monarchy's policy toward ecclesiastical affairs.

The longest and most suggestive contribution comes from Díaz Rementería, of Seville, who is responsible for seven chapters. He deals with the constitution of both sociopolitical "republics" of Spaniards and Indians in America, and inquires into the formation (and conceptualization) of a proper colonial legal system. In the latter regard he points out a royal decree of 1614 that enabled the Council of the Indies to determine which Castilian ordinances should be valid overseas and which not—thereby setting off a relative emancipation by the *Derecho Indiano* (p. 40). Furthermore, Díaz Rementería analyzes, though unfortunately in a very summary manner, such crucial topics as censos, mayorazgos, successions, contracts, insurance, and trading corporations. It is evident that only by insisting on the study of these social and economic institutions and their effective repercussions in the New World will juridical historiography go beyond the merely theoretical sphere of legislation and contribute to a more realistic image of colonial Spanish America.

TEODORO HAMPE-MARTÍNEZ, Universidad Católica del Perú

Portraits from the Age of Exploration: Selections from André Thevet's Vrais portraits et vies des hommes illustres. Edited by ROGER SCHLESINGER. Translated by EDWARD BENSON. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993. Illustrations. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 159 pp. Cloth. \$24.95.

This book offers English-speaking readers selections from a major Renaissance biographical encyclopedia, *The True Portraits and Lives of Illustrious Men* (1584) of André Thevet, the first such work to accord the honor of inclusion to Indian worthies like Moctezuma, Atahualpa, and the redoubtable Brazilian chief Quoniambec. The present work features Thevet's six sketches of Indian notables and an equal number of lives of European explorers—Columbus, Magellan, Cortés, Pizarro, Albuquerque, and Vespucci—together with reproductions of the original copper-engraved portraits of the subjects done by Thevet, according to the editor of the present work, with considerable concern for authenticity.

André Thevet and his works were and are, to put it mildly, extremely controversial. In his own time, Thevet's veracity and scholarship as a geographer and writer of travel accounts came under heavy attack. His unhappy reputation clung to him until the twentieth century, when anthropologists discovered the value of the ethnographic, mythological, and historical material on the Brazilian, Mexican, and Canadian Indians in his writings. But Thevet's rehabilitation remains partial, and his faults—his medieval lack of critical sense and his tendency to invent legends, his careless and sometimes dishonest use of sources, his attribution to other writers of statements that never actually existed—are patent to scholars who read his writings.

The selections from the *True Portraits* in this book reveal these flaws. Roger