

Indian-European relations in this part of South America, and he relies too heavily on colonial chronicles and nineteenth-century travel accounts.

At times—such as when he asserts that the Payagúa canoe Indians of the Paraguay River were enemies of the asunceños through the eighteenth century—he is simply wrong. But perhaps the book's greatest fault is the author's failure to assess the many ways the Indians of this region took advantage of the European presence and technology. The Mbayá, for instance, raided European settlements with European-imported horses and used iron implements obtained by force or trade. Along the extensive Indian frontier—which comprised the northern semicircle of the Gran Chaco and extended into the southern Mato Grosso—a reciprocal relationship of labor, trade, and warfare existed for several centuries; and while the Jesuit effort was directed at the reduction of Indians, that fluid, permeable frontier often conditioned the order's success or failure. The author slights this factor.

With these caveats in mind, the book is still recommended. Gott deserves credit for directing attention to this region, its inhabitants, and the interplay between Indians, Spanish, Portuguese, and Jesuits. *Land Without Evil* may have its faults, but it can be read for sheer enjoyment.

JERRY W. COONEY, University of Louisville

Themes in Rural History of the Western World. Edited by RICHARD HERR. Henry A. Wallace Series on Agricultural History and Rural Studies. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1993. Maps. Tables. Notes. Index. xiv, 277 pp. Cloth. \$39.95.

This volume brings together works by eight participants in a seminar for college teachers on the rural history of Europe and the Americas, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and conducted by Richard Herr at the University of California at Berkeley. Herr's introductory chapter is a historiographical gem that offers readers a vicarious entrée into his seminar. He traces the development of rural history from the classics on Western Europe written early in this century by J. L. and Barbara Hammond, Georges Lefevbre, and Marc Bloch through the impact of the Annales School and the more recent contributions of historians working on Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the United States.

Three essays deal with Latin America. D. K. Abbass challenges the presumed and widely touted fecundity of European livestock introduced in the Americas after 1492. Drawing on shipping records compiled by Huguette and Pierre Chaunu and an impressive array of other published sources, Abbass documents the transatlantic transport of livestock from 1493 to 1600. Although chickens, pigs, goats, and other small animals did reproduce at phenomenal rates, *ganado mayor* (cattle, oxen, and horses) multiplied much more slowly because of their longer reproductive cycles, the hazards of shipping them to the New World, and the shortage of workers able and willing to tend livestock. Abbass concludes that New World settlers delib-

erately exaggerated the fecundity of their animals in hopes of motivating more Spanish stockmen to emigrate.

Robert H. Claxton uses secondary sources, chronicles, and published documents to compile useful tables listing recurrences of drought for selected locations throughout colonial Latin America. His data confirm the commonly held assumption that the eighteenth century was significantly drier than the previous two centuries. Newcomers to the field will profit from John Frederick Schwaller's brief overview of the ecological, demographic, and economic factors influencing hacienda formation in the Valley of Mexico in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Specialists familiar with the work of Francois Chevalier, Woodrow Borah, Charles Gibson, James Lockhart, and their numerous scholarly descendants, however, will find little that is new.

The remaining essays offer comparative insights that may interest Latin Americanists. Dennis Kehoe and Anthony Galt examine, respectively, the economic strategies of landowners and tenants in Italy during the early Roman Empire and the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Thomas Fox explores land tenure in the Hesse-Kassel region of Germany in the eighteenth century; Ronald Janke surveys the effects of Indian land policy in the United States, with special emphasis on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation in Wisconsin; and John P. Resch documents the transformation in political culture and land tenure in Peterborough, New Hampshire, from 1750 to 1800.

CHERYL E. MARTIN, University of Texas, El Paso

Petty Felony, Slave Defiance, and Frontier Villainy: Crime and Criminal Justice in Spanish Louisiana, 1770–1803. By DEREK NOEL KERR. New York: Garland Publishing, 1993. Maps. Tables. Figures. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xx, 365 pp. Cloth. \$81.00.

This nearly verbatim publication of a 1983 Tulane University doctoral dissertation forms part of a Garland series on African American history and culture. The author has performed considerable original research in investigating crime and the administration of criminal justice in Spanish Louisiana. White notables, he finds, usually sought redress outside the system. Upper-class white women hardly ever lowered themselves by appearing in court. The most oppressed members of society were those most likely to find themselves before Spanish magistrates. Thus, the underutilized records of these proceedings, the most important of which are in the archives of the Louisiana State Museum, contain a rich lode of information on lower Louisiana's resident slave population, whose labor was beginning to transform a frontier into a plantation economy.

Spain acquired Louisiana as compensation from France during the Seven Years' War. This vast territory appeared ideally located to serve as a buffer between Spain's far more precious possessions to the southwest and England's restless