

también por Lucie Ninane, sorprenden la frescura de inspiración y la modernidad de expresión de muchas de las piezas comentadas. La iconografía de la escultura como de la pintura, marcaron época en el arte de Occidente, pues fueron próximo antecedente entre obras de la escultura española e hispano-americana.

La parte de artes del metal es una verdadera revelación, en que quizás por primera vez se reproducen a todo color magníficos ejemplares como el Relicario de Carlos el Calvo. Asimismo es muy interesante el capítulo dedicado a tapices y bordados, que como en los casos anteriores tuvieron honda repercusión en el arte de Occidente. Una amplia bibliografía completa el texto.

El libro es un magnífico alarde editorial, tanto por el texto como por las láminas que están nítida y pulcramente editadas.

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The Spain of Ferdinand and Isabella.

By JEAN HIPPOLYTE MARIÉJOL.

Edited and translated by BENJAMIN

KEEN. New Brunswick, New Jersey,

1961. Rutgers University Press.

Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliog-

raphy. Index. Pp. xxiv, 429. \$7.50.

The politics, economics, social structure, institutions, literature, and art, countryside and city, and the Spanish people of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries come to life and pass in review in this book. The lofty sense of honor of the Spanish people, their disdain for labor but willingness to face any danger, their comparative frugality, the financial privileges of nobles and clergy emphasize the outstanding characteristics of the era. Ferdinand and Isabella emerge as human beings whose deep love and mutual respect for each other combined with their native intelligence produced the necessary strength to complete the unification of Spain. The inclusion of such details as Isabella's love of fancy dress

to the point of censure by her confessor, and an account of the unwieldy mobile court add color and relief from the more serious problems of the day.

The work is divided into four sections: (1) "The Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella," (2) "The Institutions," (3) "Social Life," (4) "Intellectual Life." There is an excellent section on the *Cortes* and its functions, and another on the cities. The one weak point seems to be the data on Columbus. Either Mariéjol was unacquainted with Samuel Eliot Morison's work on Columbus or chose to ignore the information therein.

This is a splendid translation of the author's charming, graceful, and scholarly style. Mariéjol is a master of characterization whether describing an institution or heroes of history. The book should appeal to the popular reader as well as to the scholar. Mariéjol sums up the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella: "These sovereigns wielded very great power, and they used that power for the greatest possible good of the Spanish people. . . ." His final tribute to the Catholic Kings was that at their death Spain had become a dominant state in Europe without arousing general resentment.

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Historia de la literatura hispanoamericana. Vol. 1: *Colonia y siglo XIX.*

Vol. 2: *Siglo XX.* By CARLOS

HAMILTON. New York, 1960, 1962.

Las Americas Publishing Co. Index.

Pp. 180, 221.

Volume I traces the evolution of Spanish-American literature from its beginnings to the advent of modernism. Chapter 1, an introduction to the colonial period, takes up such diverse topics as the Indians, the black legend, the laws of the Indies, universities, and printing. The next two chapters discuss the chronicle, epic poetry, baroque writings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the precursors of the novel (one of the more interesting sections). Chapter 4, concerned with