

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.

JOSÉ DE MESA y

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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.

GWENDOLIN B. COBB

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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

the eighteenth century, pays considerable attention to the Jesuit writers expelled from the Spanish possessions, and concludes with two significant figures, Lavardén and Concolorcorvo. The last chapter, properly the longest of all, discusses romanticism in its various manifestations and then passes to the gaucho, the Indianist and realistic novel, short story, essay, poetry, and theatre.

Volume II in its five chapters furnishes an account of the literature of the twentieth century in the light of modernism, postmodernism and vanguardism, the novel and short story, trends observable in the contemporary novel, the theatre, essay and literary criticism, and Puerto Rican literature (written in collaboration with Gaetano Massa).

The two volumes provide enough information about the authors and movements to give an impression of their relative merits. Hamilton is at his best when writing of Chileans. The manual, unfortunately, degenerates at times into a sort of catalogue of names and titles. Numerous errors in dates, titles, and authors' names plus the lack of a bibliography reduce its usefulness.

HARVEY L. JOHNSON

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Novelas ejemplares de Cibola. By RAMÓN SENDER. New York, 1961. Las Americas Publishing Co. Pp. 322.

Written in Spanish, it contains twelve short novels of different lengths, and dealing with different subjects, unified by the reflection each one gives of sundry aspects of the life, environment, peoples, traditions, attitudes, and general background of the legendary land of Cibola, presumably New Mexico, in modern times. The plots emerge through psychic reactions and processes caused by ordinary or legendary occurrences intended to create anew the identity of Cibola. The presentation of the novels is made very interesting and humorous by its clever way of depicting the psychic processes which shift from the important to the unimportant, and

even to the trivial and impertinent. The choice of Spanish expressions sprinkled here and there with English or Indian words or their Spanish simile sounds is indeed excellent for the presentation of the subjects. It is a Spanish with a delightful geographical flavor, and which the author arranges well, when he needs it, to express the elaboration of thinking rather than the finished product. The skill with which the language is used to portray psychic activities together with the narrative and descriptive devices the author uses to recreate Cibola in the mind of the reader are the greatest literary values of this work.

HERBERTO LACAYO

Tallahassee, Florida

Iberoamérica. Sus lenguas y literaturas vistas desde los Estados Unidos. Edited by ROBERT G. MEAD, JR. Mexico, 1962. Ediciones de Andrea. Colección Studium, No. 32. Index. Pp. 223. Paper.

This is an anthology comprised of twenty-one articles carefully selected from *Hispania*, journal of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, by its editor. The articles deal with various aspects of the languages and literature of Mexico, Cuba, and Central and South America. Literary studies included involve the novel, the short story, the essay, and poetry. Primary representation is of specific writers, although a few articles deal with general themes and comparative literature. In addition, an excellent address by Professor Bolinger, President of AAUP, is included on the objectives of teaching languages.

No single volume of this type could cover the ground completely, nor is it intended. Professor Mead states in his preface that the purpose is to show Latin Americans that there exist among American professors a comprehension of their problems and a deep and lively affinity toward them. The purpose of the collection is admirably accomplished. All of the selections show insight into the languages and their use,