

BOOK NOTICES

Initialed notices were written by members of the editorial staff.

A History of Medieval Spain. By JOSEPH F. O'CALLAGHAN. Ithaca, 1975. Cornell University Press. Maps. Illustrations. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 729. Cloth. \$25.00.

In view of recently published syntheses in English of medieval Iberian history, among them Gabriel Jackson's and Stanley Payne's chapters, the question is: What does this big book contribute? Its five parts cover the years from 415 to 1492 over the entire Peninsula. The political narrative inescapably made up of kings and battles is written in an agreeable and straightforward style. The author points out recent revisions as well as obscure areas and controversies past and current. To these chapters are added special topics which reflect the growing wealth of sources and complexities of scholarly debate concerning society, culture, economy and religion. The narrative fixes convenient pegs from which to suspend the drape of social history. We are made aware of the deceptive firmness of the chronological pegs as well as of the contrasting firmness of apparently ephemeral social annals.

The problem of the many technical terms derived from multiple sources (especially Arabic, Catalan and Portuguese) with which the historian of Iberia has to contend are cleverly handled. Where definition is either doubtful or unimportant in the context, several usages are given in parentheses. This way many more terms are introduced than can be defined without difficulty. It is a pity that they are not given an index and must be dug out of the text.

Some pictures, maps and ten genealogical tables are appended. The bibliography is highly selective and quite up to date and prevents no one from following his own inclination. This is a book for people who do not look for quick answers to questions about the Iberian Middle Ages, but who will take the time (a college course) to see what there is to be found out. Curiously, it is the virtue of the longer format to raise questions.

U.L.

Camden Miscellany. Vol. XXV. By THE OFFICES OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY. London, 1974. University College, London. Tables. Maps. Index. Pp. viii, 278. Cloth.

This Miscellany edited by the Royal Historical Society is truly a miscellany. This volume has documents from the period of Henry VIII, a parliamentary diary of the late eighteenth century and an 1827 report on Bolivia by the private secretary (Joseph Barclay Pentland) of Charles Milner Ricketts, the British Consul General in Lima, Peru. The Pentland report, up to now unknown to me, is a most useful document for early Bolivian history. As the editor states, it should be con-

sidered "a short supplement" to Humphrey's well known *British Consular Reports on the Trade and Politics of Latin America*.

Pentland (about whom the editor of the document, J. Valerie Fifer, gives us no information) left for Bolivia in September, 1826, and stayed in this newest Latin American country until April, 1827. He visited the areas of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí and Chuquisaca, missing Tarija and the vast east of Santa Cruz and the Beni.

The report has much about mining since Pentland visited nearly all mining districts. Here it is a storehouse of precise information that can hardly be duplicated. This is followed by a discussion of foreign and domestic commerce of the new Bolivia. This, too, is most useful and interesting. The last part deals with the political and administrative status of Bolivia at the time of his visit. This again has solid data. His sketch of President Sucre is most complimentary to him as a politician, statesman and writer. His ability as a writer is confirmed by my own research where Sucre impressed me with his exquisite penmanship and his many editorials in the first Bolivian newspaper. I am pleased that Pentland agreed.

In sum, this is a most useful study. Will it be known since it is buried in this collection of so different studies?

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CHARLES W. ARNADE

Latin America and the United States. By GRAHAM H. STUART and JAMES L. TIGNER. 6th ed. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1975. Prentice-Hall. Tables. Figures. Appendix. Index. Pp. viii, 856. Cloth. \$13.95.

Graham H. Stuart's *Latin America and the United States* was not only the first textbook on United States-Latin American relations, but, from 1922 to about 1960 it was the only one. Beginning in 1926, at the University of Texas, the undersigned used the Stuart volume as a text for his course on our Latin American relations. He therefore can claim longtime acquaintance with the volume through its several editions. Now, twenty years since the publication of the fifth edition in 1955, a sixth is offered under the joint authorship of Dr. Stuart and Professor James L. Tigner of the University of Nevada.

The present volume, enlarged about 45 per cent, retains the structural plan of the earlier edition: the same number of chapters and identical titles. Also, most of the original textual content is retained, although with considerable elaboration for the sake of clarity, but not necessarily new interpretation. The materials covering developments from 1955 to 1973 are skillfully distributed among the several chapters. In sum, the volume makes no significant departure from the traditional interpretations of the earlier Stuart volumes. Notwithstanding, it should serve its purpose well as a text for courses covering our Latin American relations.

Austin, Texas

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