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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

Blood Brother. By Elliott Arnold. Duell, Sloan & Pearce, New York, 1947; 558 pp. \$3.00.

With a heavy mixture of ethnology, history, geography and romance, Mr. Elliott Arnold has written an uneven but interesting historical novel of the relations of the Anglo-Americans and the Chiricahua Apache Indians during the years 1856-1874. The story deals mainly with the strange and perhaps questionable friendship of two of the most noted characters ever to live in the territory known as the Gadsden Purchase—the friendship between the fearless frontiersman and unique Indian agent, Thomas J. Jeffords, and the blood-thirsty avenger and astute Chiricahua war chief, Cochise. Mr. Arnold in his description and analysis of this complex friendship appears to be essentially concerned with the blood brotherhood of all men and races. This purpose is satisfactorily achieved, if one will overlook numerous historical aberrations, within the premises set forth in the pages of the *Author's Notes*.

Jeffords and Cochise were strong characters in their restricted spheres, and each may have grown in stature with the passage of time. Neither of them, however, is included in the *Dictionary of American Biography*. Obviously, the endowment of Cochise with such extraordinary philosophical power is a matter of Mr. Arnold's vivid imagination; it is ludicrous from the historical standpoint. However, there is no question about the peculiar friendship of these two interesting men and of a probable growth in its intensity until death brought it to an end. And whether or not sales and exchanges of ammunition by Jeffords to Cochise first brought these men together (as apparently sound evidence of their contemporaries tends to show), a lasting and singularly sincere friendship which proved to be of great value in Indian relations in the Southwest did result. Related to the pattern followed by the government the problem of Apache control was greatly lessened thereby, as well as the time required to subject the last of the irreconcilables under the notorious Gerónimo.

Mr. Arnold reaches his worst low in precipitating Jeffords into the field of romance. His love affair and marriage to the innocent Apache maid, Sonseeahray, degenerates to a point where Jeffords can only be characterized as a rank sensualist. Nudism has no place in Jefford's life, and it is unfortunate that Mr. Arnold has cluttered his book with it. The case of Terry Weaver is sufficiently sophisticated, but for some reason it fails to click as an authentic love affair of the times.

There are other weaknesses in the book. In numerous places the story drags and becomes boring when too much attention is given to ethnological considerations of doubtful authenticity. The language here and there is quite modern, *a la Hollywood*, and is most incongruous in the conversations of the period covered by the novel. Then, too, it is doubtful if in recent times Hollywood has had a meaner fight or a longer drawn out death than in the instances depicted in chapter five.

But by and large *Blood Brother* is a very readable book. It characterizes well, describes beautifully and introduces constructive bits of philosophy at most opportune moments. It abounds in drama. A spirit of genuine charity and understanding also is evident throughout the long story, and though the mosaic frequently grows devious and complex, yet the author never strays far from his compelling thesis—the blood brotherhood of all men and races.

R. H. OGLE.

Phoenix, Arizona

The Spanish Empire in America. By Clarence H. Haring. New York, Oxford University Press, 1947. Pp. vii, 388. \$5.00.

Students have in this volume a much needed fundamental discussion of institutions in colonial Spanish America. Aside from sources, too often unavailable, and some monographs dealing with specific phases of institutional history, there has been a dearth of satisfying material.

America was largely conquered and organized by Spain and Portugal. Spain, but recently unified by the marriage

of Isabella and Ferdinand (1469), had widely divergent political conditions. To absolutist Castile and Isabella and not to more liberal Aragon fell the heritage of America, and thus the Castilian institutions, modified and adapted, were transferred to the New World with the *conquistadores*. Beginning in Española, Admiral and Adelantado Columbus first undertook the task of "trying to control a frontier community thousands of miles from the home base." Administrators and royal instructions directed the establishment of Castilian institutions as a means of control.

Motives for colonization range from adventure, riches, and religious zeal to an escape from conditions in Europe. Comparisons between English and Spanish colonial developments are skillfully analyzed. With settlement came the problem of a labor supply because the Spaniards had "an aversion to manual toil." This problem brought the practice of *repartimiento* and *encomienda* grants. A masterful outline of the system with its legal restrictions, projected, announced and modified changes, and its final disappearance in the 18th Century merits praise.

16th Century territorial organization of the conquests from California to the southern straits first fell into two viceroyalties, New Spain and Peru, subdivided into jurisdictions under governors, captains-general and *audiencias* who shared the rule while supervised by viceroys. The first pledges of rights and obligations were forgotten in the maze of regulations and the corruption of administration. 18th Century Bourbon reforms brought new viceroyalties but failed to solve the problems.

Colonial administration found its source in Spain in the Royal and Supreme Council of the Indies created in 1524 under Charles V and absolute in legislation, finance, justice, commerce, military and ecclesiastical affairs. The *Casa de Contratación* (House of Trade) set up in 1503 and subject to the Council dealt with colonial economy. Bourbon reforms, especially those of Charles III, transferred the power to Cabinet ministers. But the Bourbons failed to unite the colonies or reform the abuses. Divergencies due to geography, economic conditions, different social organizations

and ethnic composition "combine to produce fundamental divergencies . . . that account for the destruction of the Old Spanish unity in the 19th Century."

These especially created institutions sitting in Spain defined the powers and privileges of the viceroys and the functions of the *audiencias*. Provincial administration was under governors, *corregidores* and *alcaldes mayores*. Official checks on the efficiency of administrators was attempted through the *residencia* and *visitas*. For the local unit of government there was the *cabildo*. "It was the only institution in which the creole . . . was largely represented. And it was one of the few institutions which retained even a small measure of local autonomy." Mr. Haring points out that the *cabildo* was not a potent factor in training for democracy. In the *cabildo abierto* (open *cabildo*) however, although called at irregular intervals, "the people made their first attempts at self-government."

"Another branch of royal administration" was the Church. Through the Church Spain "transmitted to America her culture, and in large measure her political ascendancy." Friars came first and their zeal for the welfare of their converts led to controversy with administrators over the exploitation of the natives. Secular clergy followed and bitter struggles ensued over "ecclesiastical jurisdiction and sacramental privilege." Acquisition of wealth by the Church and the attendant political influence was one of the most "troublesome problems bequeathed" by colonial Spain to the new republics.

With the Church went early education, first designed for the Indian converts but soon facing the colonial stratified society which came with racial mixtures and creole groups. Monks and priests were the teachers and much of the literature and art came from the religious. Sermons, chronicles, and theological treatises gave way to writings by laymen who felt the influence of French and other European schools.

Mr. Haring analyzes the economic life of the colonies, the Spanish monopolistic mercantilism and subsequent decline. Although Bourbon reforms brought prosperity, it

was too late, for political independence offered greater opportunity. "Yet had there not been the circumstance of the wars in Europe and a moderate degree of political and economic liberty, the empire might for a time at least have been preserved."

This book is an excellent one, bringing together a mass of information on the institutions and culture of colonial Spanish America. Mr. Haring's discussions of the political machinery and church seem more comprehensive, stimulating, and penetrating to this reviewer than the later chapters on cultural and economic life. Certain inevitable and excusable queries come from the necessary generalities in such a work. There are a few errors due, no doubt, to proof reading (date of Papal Bulls "May and September 1492" p. 9) which will be corrected in subsequent editions. The book is completed with an excellent bibliography.

The volume is a real contribution to the literature of Spanish America and its meticulous scholarship, careful synthesis, and admirable presentation merits unqualified praise.

DOROTHY WOODWARD

University of New Mexico