

JOHN BRIGGS and IAN SELLERS, eds. — *Victorian Nonconformity*. London: Edward Arnold, 1973.

Despite the unflattering descriptions which have been frequently attached to it, Victorian Nonconformity was one of the most formative influence on nineteenth century English society. As champion of "those movements and sentiments which may be considered most characteristically Victorian," it is an important element in the understanding of Victorian society and the full assessment of its impact has yet to be determined. Although that assessment is not its purpose, this book helps to bring to our attention something of the flavour and complexity of a group which is all too frequently misunderstood within very narrow categories. Through a thematic selection of texts the editors attempt—at times very successfully—to represent to the modern student the commitments of a previous age in the words, laced with controversy and emotion, of protagonists themselves.

The illustrative selections themselves were interesting and worthwhile and provide a marvellous collection of texts not otherwise available to the student. One would have appreciated something of the popular sentiments and public statements of members of the established church on various aspects of dissent but this is beyond the scope of the editors in this volume.

The very concise introductions were at times disappointing, either by promising more than the texts illustrated or by not offering enough by way of contextual explanation or introduction. A little more understanding of the type of student likely to use this book would have provided more in terms of a general introduction which would simply and clearly explain Nonconformity and the main highlights of its history from the seventeenth century as well as what it consisted of in the nineteenth century—their percentage of the population; their main objectives, etc. Such a short general introduction would outweigh, both in understanding and enjoyment, the space which it would require. The selections themselves also should have been given contextual introductions. The usefulness of the book would have been greatly increased by the addition of an index, as would have its convenience by a complete list of biographical notes rather than the random collection which are included (only two out of 10 selections in Chapter One are given a biographical note).

Though not a substitute for a good modern general history, *Victorian Nonconformity* offers an introduction and, through the variety of interesting material which it presents, an encouragement to further studies in the area. To students of history, who sometimes tend to accept an oversimplified version of the past and a neat set of categories, it offers a safeguard through its wide variety of contemporary witnesses which speak through its pages. It would be a mistake to treat Victorian Nonconformity as though it was a uniform phenomenon and at the conclusion of this book there is little likelihood of this happening. Students of English social history will find in its pages a testimony to the importance of Nonconformity as an element in the understanding of Victorian society.

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DAURIL ALDEN, ed. — *Colonial Roots of Modern Brazil*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1973.

This volume, published in 1973, presents the fruits of a conference planned in 1967 and held at the Newberry Library in 1969. The first Luso-Brazilian Colloquium held in 1950 enabled many scholars to foregather for the first time to discuss their interests, and it is lamentable that no such meeting has been held since 1966. The colloquia were broad in

scope, tolerant as regards quality and enthusiastic in atmosphere: they represented a tremendous effort of organization and required a considerable outlay of resources: we can only hope that they will be revived. For the Newberry Library conference six younger American scholars submitted papers on aspects of colonial Brazil which now appear with a foreword by Professor Boxer on Brazilian colonial historiography since the Colloquium of 1950. The volume has little to do with modern Brazil, and might have been called aspects of Colonial Brazil.

Professor Boxer disarms criticism by calling his contribution a purely personal reflection. It is not a complete bibliography and does not include all the most important publications of the period. It is rather an after-dinner speech consisting of notes on work that has been done and recommendations for work that needs to be done.

Of the essays three are grouped as "political" and three as "socio-economic:" F. A. Dútra traces the relations of the family of Albuquerque Coelho with the settlement of Pernambuco of which they were donatários until their rights were taken over by Philip III. It is concerned largely with appointments, and tells little of the fortunes of the colony under its mostly absentee proprietors. D. M. Davidson discusses "how the Brazilian west was won," showing that after the *bandeirantes* had opened up the mines of Minas and Mato Grosso, the Portuguese court supported a deliberate policy of expansion thrusting towards the remote and isolated Spanish settlements. Alexandre de Gusmão was a worthy predecessor of Rio Branco. K. R. Maxwell deals with the attitudes of the generation of c. 1790, for example Don Rodrigo de Sousa Coutinho, arguing that the failure of the *Inconfidência* and the attempted revolt of Bahia taught Brazilians and Portuguese to seek moderate solutions. The theme is of great interest, and transcends the short, perceptive, but necessarily inadequate bounds of the article.

The first of the three socio-economic essays is S. B. Schwartz's account of the free sugar-growers of Bahia. The work draws mainly on the invaluable records of the Engenho Sergipe, and is an original and well-rounded account of an important community long neglected because of the general preoccupation with estate-owners and slaves. C. M. MacLachlan discusses the problem of Indian labour in Amazonia in the eighteenth century, and provides a useful introduction to the relationship between missionaries, settlers, Indians and the government in a vast and thinly-peopled area. Its bearing on Pombal's policies is not discussed. Finally H. B. Johnson, following the investigations of Magalhães Godinho into Portuguese prices, makes a preliminary enquiry into money, prices and wages at Rio de Janeiro from 1743 to 1823. The work is based on statistics from the leper hospital and monasteries which provide some useful series. Tentative conclusions are drawn about the economy of Rio de Janeiro compared to those of Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile studied by R. Romano: they point to the perhaps not astonishing conclusion that the economy of Rio de Janeiro partakes of the characteristics of Lisbon, while that of the Spanish possessions resembles Spain.

The volume pays tribute to the late Fred Holden Hall, who for many years tended the flame of Brazilian studies at the Newberry Library. His untimely death in Lisbon from an infection caught on a visit to West Africa has left a gap in the affection of many.

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GEORGE J. PRPIC. — *The Croatian Immigrants in America*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1971.

Edward N. Saveth makes a penetrating analysis of the historiography of immigration (*American Historians and European Immigration*, New York, 1948) when he laments the