



Review

Reviewed Work(s): *La Fin du Moyen Age* by Henri Pirenne, Édouard Perroy, Augustin Renaudet, Marcel Handelsman and Louis Halphen

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removed from the events to view them in perspective has regarded with a different eye conduct which brought Rienzi criticism from his friends and neighbors, let alone his enemies. The book is singularly devoid of ineptitudes, unless it be the failure to note that the proper abbreviation for the expression "Cola di Rienzo" is not "Rienzo" but "Rienzi". The book deserves a translation into English, since Anglo-Saxon readers still know of Rienzi only what Edward Gibbon told, and Edward Bulwer-Lytton garnished with his fancy.

The University of Idaho.

FREDERIC C. CHURCH.

La Fin du Moyen Age. Par HENRI PIRENNE, ÉDOUARD PERROY, AUGUSTIN RENAUDET, MARCEL HANDELSMAN, et LOUIS HALPHEN. In two parts. Part I., *La Désagrégation du Monde Médiéval, 1285-1453*; part II., *L'Annonce des Temps Nouveaux, 1453-1492*. [Peuples et Civilisations, Histoire Générale, publiée sous la Direction de Louis Halphen et Philippe Sagnac, tome VII.] (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1931. Pp. 569; 324. 60 fr., 35 fr.)

THE value of handbooks such as this has long been recognized, and the quality of this particular series has previously been noted (XXXII. 299, 573; XXXV. 389). The reader has here a treatment which is sufficiently detailed to show the steps in historical development and, at the same time, one which is short enough to keep the continuity of that development always present to his attention. There is a skillful combination of the topical and chronological presentation which is surprisingly successful in the avoidance of repetition. The period under consideration is so filled with events that the problem of presenting them without confusion is peculiarly difficult. By opening each chapter with a section of generalizations, and by concluding the whole work with an effective summary, the authors and editors have succeeded in keeping the general trends clearly in sight. Their difficulties were not lessened by their attempt to write world history instead of merely European history, but the consideration of Asiatic events has been reduced to a minimum, so that Japanese affairs receive very limited attention, while those of Siam are only mentioned.

Although five authors appear on the title-page more than three-fourths of the text is credited to two of them. The sections dealing with religious, intellectual, and artistic topics are from the pen of Professor Renaudet, while those on the political history of Western and Central Europe are by M. Perroy, with the editorial assistance of M. Halphen. The economic sections and the chapter on the Burgundian state by Professor Pirenne comprise about one-sixteenth of the text. Professor Handelsman contributes a somewhat larger portion on the Slavic peoples. Of these the parts dealing with intellectual history are the most enlightening. The subject lends itself

to lucid treatment more readily than does the narrative of wars and councils. With great clarity we are shown the links in the history of thought between the Middle Ages and the Reformation including the persistence of Joachimite ideas. We also see the Renaissance in relation to the past, without enthusiastic exaggeration, showing the intellectual movements contemporaneous with Humanism, recognizing the weaknesses of Petrarchism, and emphasizing Valla and Nicholas of Cusa who is esteemed the most vigorous intellect of the fifteenth century. In respect to the military narrative, despite allusion at the appropriate places to the new artillery at Crécy, to the janissaries, and to the solid army of Swiss pikemen at Nancy, it may be doubted if the reader will realize that a revolution in the art of war was taking place. Nor does the account of French military reforms under Charles VII. and Louis XI. supply the deficiency.

Each chapter and section is provided with very useful bibliographical notes. These, while indicating the standard works, take particular care to cite books and articles in all the European languages published since 1900. Where necessary, short phrases of warning or special commendation are inserted, and the usefulness is still further increased by a careful system of cross reference. In addition, in part II. will be found a supplemental bibliography containing the most recent titles relative to part I. There are more than fifty pages of index.

Williams College.

RICHARD A. NEWHALL.

The Cardinal of Lorraine and the Council of Trent: a Study in the Counter-Reformation. By H. OUTRAM EVENNETT, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (Cambridge: University Press; New York: Macmillan Company. 1930. Pp. xvii, 536. \$8.50.)

THIS book was begun as a fellowship dissertation on the part played by the Cardinal of Lorraine in certain years of the Council of Trent. The author did not know that years before M. Romier had suggested the need of a study of the part played by the Cardinal of Lorraine in the last assembly at Trent and that Pastor had pointed out that a good biography of the cardinal was much to be desired. The author was encouraged to continue his task but he did not undertake what both of them suggested—either a full biography or an exclusive study of the sessions of Trent.

He has produced, therefore, neither an article nor a monograph nor a biography. To the reviewer it seems a pity. I should have been glad to see him take a larger canvas and give us a portrait of one of the great men of his day which, unless I am mistaken, he could have done with great competence. Did he distrust his own ability? If he did he was wrong.

The writer states his own subject as follows: "This book has attempted to trace the struggle waged by the French and in particular by the Cardinal