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Mark A. Burkholder

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Book Reviews

Bureaucrats, Planters, and Workers: The Making of the Tobacco Monopoly in Bourbon Mexico. By Susan Deans-Smith. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1992. xxi + 362 pp. Illustrations, tables, appendixes, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.)

"The tobacco revenue... was a source of ever-increasing returns during the Spanish domination.... [In 1802] this revenue was the largest of all those of New Spain." Thus wrote Herbert Ingram Priestley in his 1916 study of the *visita* of José de Gálvez in New Spain.

Scholars have long been aware, as were eighteenth-century bureaucrats, that New Spain's tobacco monopoly was a major source of government revenue from its effective organization by Gálvez in the 1760s to the early nineteenth century. Overwhelmed by the daunting mass of documentation related to the monopoly, however, most historians have been content to rely on published figures of annual revenues and then to move on to more manageable topics. Fortunately for students of Bourbon Mexico, Susan Deans-Smith has now studied the subject thoroughly. On the basis of materials in Mexico's National Archives, the Archivo General de Indias, the notarial archives of Orizaba, and other archives as well as printed primary sources and a wealth of secondary literature, she has written an impressive volume that not only underscores the fiscal importance of the monopoly but also illuminates every facet of its operation. Of equal importance, she has placed her examination in the context of the rich historiographical contributions of the last quarter-century while simultaneously adding to this burgeoning literature.

Bureaucrats, Planters, and Workers is divided into three parts. Part 1 provides an overview of the political maneuvering associated with the establishment of the monopoly, the implications of the monopoly for tobacco growers and production, and an examination of the monopoly's bureaucrats and finances from 1765 to 1810. Part 2 examines the politics and problems of securing the desired supply of both tobacco and paper, and the planters of Orizaba and Córdoba, the two regions authorized to produce tobacco. Part 3 focuses on the six state-run manufactories for cigars and cigarettes, the composition of the work force, working conditions and wages, and worker-employer relations. A postscript briefly concludes the history of the monopoly for the years after 1810.

Deans-Smith's analysis clearly reveals both the fiscal success of the monopoly and the price of this success. Given an established source of substantial revenue, the state was unwilling to foster changes that would have

enabled the monopoly to adjust to changing conditions through the introduction of new equipment or the construction of a paper mill that would have assured a regular source of paper. Conservative rather than innovative policies thus characterized the Bourbon state in the closing decades of colonial rule.

In its detailed description of bureaucratic politics, this work is reminiscent of Jacques A. Barbier's outstanding *Reform and Politics in Bourbon Chile*. At the same time, Deans-Smith has made a valuable contribution to social history by examining the workers in the manufactories. The portrayal of the workers, many of whom were creoles and most of whom were women, provides a glimpse of lower-class society that complements the rich portrayal in Christon I. Archer's *The Army in Bourbon Mexico*.

Replete with figures on total revenues, costs, and profits of the monopoly, the volume and value of tobacco received from Orizaba and Córdoba, and the quantity and sales of packets of cigars and cigarettes, *Bureaucrats, Planters, and Workers* is an extremely informative study that both clarifies the nature and operation of the monopoly and contributes to an improved understanding of Bourbon policies in New Spain. Clearly written and enriched by the thoughtful use of theoretical social science literature, this work is a major contribution to the history of Bourbon Mexico.

Mark A. Burkholder
Department of History
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Hernando de Soto and the Indians of Florida. By Jerald T. Milanich and Charles Hudson. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1993. xv + 292 pp. Illustrations, map, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.)

Anniversaries are a boon to historical scholarship, providing much needed incentives to reevaluate previous work and undertake new research. Spanish colonial scholarship in the United States has received a boost from the juxtaposition of the 450th anniversaries of the Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vázquez de Coronado *entradas* with the Columbus Quincentenary.

Not since the anniversaries of 1939 and 1940 has so much interest been focused on the sixteenth-century Southeast and Southwest. New and corrected translations of the expeditionary narratives have been published. Historians and anthropologists have examined the impact of European incursions on epidemics and pandemics, demographics, native political affiliations, linguistics, and trade. Publications have been issued on Indian and