

it a valuable edition for scholars in fields including the evolution of medicine and midwifery's role in medicine, as well as scholarship on woman's body and form and on the early modern period in France.

Alistair Malcolm. *Royal Favouritism and the Governing Elite of the Spanish Monarchy, 1640-1665*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. xiii + 305 pp. \$100.00. Review by CARL AUSTIN WISE, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON.

In *Royal Favouritism and the Governing Elite of the Spanish Monarchy*, Alistair Malcolm analyzes Luis de Haro's rise to power in the court of Philip IV following more than twenty years of the Count-Duke of Olivares' unwavering influence on the Spanish monarchy. Historians have studied at length Philip III and Philip IV's tendency to appoint powerful *validos*, or the king's favorites, who in theory wielded the power of the monarch on his behalf. Yet such a position inevitably suggests usurpation, and *validos* and monarchs alike engaged in a careful balancing act which sought to legitimize the favorite's power while at the same time not diminishing the king's authority. Making the position even more complex was the fact that it depended solely on the monarch's pleasure, and was therefore inherently unstable. Indeed, the *valido* could fall from the king's favor at any moment. Most studies to date on early modern political favoritism focus exclusively on the first half of the seventeenth century. Antonio Feros analyzes the rise of the Duke of Lerma to power from 1598-1618 (*Kingship and Favoritism in Spain, 1598-1621*) and J. H. Elliott's biography of Olivares (*The Count-Duke of Olivares*) looks at the Spanish court dominated by Olivares after Lerma's demise in 1618 until 1640. J. H. Elliott and L. W. B. Brockliss' edited volume *The World of the Favourite* studies similar political structures across Europe, including the Duke of Buckingham's prominence in the English court of James I and Cardinal Richelieu's iron grip on French politics during the reign of Louis XIII. Despite the attention given to early modern political favorites and their power in the seventeenth century, however, nearly all studies end with Richelieu and Olivares' removal from the French and Spanish courts in 1642 and 1643, respectively.

Malcolm's monograph looks at the power vacuum created by Olivares' removal and how Luis de Haro, the seventh Marquis of El Carpio, navigated court politics by presenting himself as a perfect courtier, a stark deviation from Lerma and Olivares' tendency to dominate court life. Overall, the book is a methodical study of the second half of Philip IV's court and sheds new light on a critical phase in early modern Spanish history. As Malcolm points out, Luis de Haro presents serious problems for historians attempting to delve into his influence on Spanish politics. As he preferred to conduct business orally and without a record, he left very little paper documentation. The only available documentation, therefore, is found through the correspondence and records of secondary ministers and court visitors, which Malcolm painstakingly reconstructs through primary sources scattered throughout thirty archives in Spain, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Part one examines the contradictory role of the *valido*, which was often seen as necessary for managing the increasingly complex burdens of a modern state yet at the same time was considered antithetical to ideals of good kingship and direct rule. The confusing nature of the position resulted in a flood of treatises and political pamphlets produced in the early seventeenth century, including Francisco de Quevedo, Mateo López de Bravo, Francisco Suárez, Baltasar Gracián and others, and Malcolm recounts in detail dozens of early modern attempts to define the position. Rather than continuing Olivares' efforts to legitimize and aggrandize the *valido* position, Haro, however, eschewed such language in favor of presenting himself as having the attributes of a "perfect courtier": discretion, modesty, affability, and nonchalance. Haro's discreet court machinations remain difficult to detect in the early years after Olivares' demise, as his influence remained largely informal. Nevertheless, Malcolm recounts how Haro placed key figures within the king's household to ensure a court environment that was beneficial to his own position.

Part two delves into the court's restructuring after Olivares' departure and the delicate alliances between various court ministers. Here, Malcolm interjects broader historical study with fascinating anecdotes of court life, detailing the nuances of how the king's inner circle choreographed their every interpersonal relationship. The carefully scripted system stems from the old *valimiento* form of government under

Lerma and Olivares being largely discredited, yet at the same time Haro sought to legitimize his position as the king's advisor-minister by bringing select allies into the folds of power. Particularly interesting is how Malcolm combs through the wills of dozens of grandees to trace to whom they bequeathed valued positions as a means of strengthening ties between noble families and as a way solidifying the position of non-noble relatives at court. This seeming alliance between Spain's noble families produced a period of remarkable success and, despite a few noted exceptions, Philip's government ran relatively smoothly largely thanks to Haro's policy of building alliances among the nobility.

Part three looks at the evolution of foreign policy under Haro and how he dealt with Spain's continued losses to France during the Franco-Spanish War. Olivares' regime had prioritized victory over foreign belligerents and Spain's authority over its vast territories, yet several staggering military defeats left Spain in a vulnerable position. In 1658, for example, Spain's army in Flanders was nearly wiped out, and at the same time Portugal positioned an army so massive on its Extremadura border that a Portuguese invasion looked almost certain. The accumulating dangers prompted Haro to turn inward to a strategy of preserving stability at home. As a result, Philip IV made overtures indicating that a road to peace with France was desired under the right conditions. Malcolm maintains that Spain's peace with France was in large part due to the personal relationship that Haro cultivated with his French equivalent, Cardinal Mazarin. Haro's negotiations proved wildly successful at the subsequent Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659, as France agreed to extremely favorable terms under the circumstances, including withdrawing their support of Portuguese aggressions and a marriage proposal between Philip's daughter Maria Teresa and the future Louis XIV. The treaty was seen as a major success for Haro and an achievement that would solidify his position within the Spanish government. Despite Haro's enthusiasm for the treaty, however, historians frequently interpret 1659 as a conspicuous sign of Spain's decline. Malcolm argues, however, that Haro and the Spanish elite's primary goal was never Spanish military superiority, but rather the maintenance of the Spanish monarchy's prominence in both domestic and European spheres.

Luis de Haro's efforts to create a sense of shared influence among the Spanish elite quickly fell apart after his death, and without a *valido* figure around which to organize the court, Spain's government became chaotic with various grandees acting unilaterally and in their own interests. Malcolm also points out that after Philip IV died in 1665, the Council of Castile explicitly rejected the office of *valido* and stated emphatically that the monarch should not elevate a single individual to manage all government functions. Yet while the great *valido* office of Lerma, Olivares, and Haro disappeared in name after 1665, Malcolm reminds us that Haro's careful alliances insured that his descendants formed the subsequent Spanish monarchs' inner circles for generations to come.

Malcolm's study of court politics in the second half of Philip IV's reign represents a substantial contribution to an overlooked period in early modern Spanish history. The author draws from the established works of J. H. Elliott and others, yet he also pulls from a substantial body of new archival research and primary documents, offering details which illuminate the inner workings of Haro's circle. Malcolm's monograph will undoubtedly become an instrumental source for anyone studying Philip IV and early modern Spanish politics.

Alain Dufour et al, *Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze. T. XLIII (1603-1605)*. Genève: Droz, 2017. xxvii + 185 pp. 105 €. Review by JILL FEHLEISON, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY.

This volume serves as the final collection of the correspondence of Theodore Beza, the Reformed theologian and John Calvin's successor in Geneva. The 43 volumes of the series were published between 1960 and 2017 and covered Beza's massive correspondence from 1539 until 1605. Volume 43 addresses the final three years of Beza's life before his death on October 13, 1605. This volume also serves as the final project of Alain Dufour, the archivist and paleographer who served on the project since the beginning and served as its director from 1968–1995 and who sadly passed away shortly before its publication. Dufour spent more than a half-century editing the correspondence of Beza.