

than creating innovative policies, regularly resurrected ideas dating back to the 1500s. The book focuses on political and administrative activities, which causes some difficulty in calculating the effectiveness of the French navy. Only a work concentrating on the operational aspects would allow one to see whether the cardinal's and his successors' efforts were justified by the results. James does a good job in comparing the French situation to the contemporary one in England. Given the French struggle between the center and localities, more attention should have been paid to the Dutch who functioned as a naval power despite a multiplicity of admiralties. Equally, more attention should have been paid to Spanish comparisons, since the period 1621-59 marks the eclipse of that country's navy.

James proves to the reviewer that the French navy was an integral part of the country's armed forces and not a mere afterthought. The book is valuable for scholars of early modern French and naval history. Given the book's complexity, it appears more suitable to academics and postgraduates than to undergraduates and the general reader.

Richard Butterwick, ed. *The Polish-Lithuanian Monarchy in European Context, c.1500-1795*. Hampshire: Palgrave, 2001. xx + 250 pp. + 4 maps. \$95.00. Review by JAKUB BASISTA, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW.

The English language book market does not spoil students of Central European history with too many publications. It is slightly better when contemporary history and post-Communist times are concerned, but books referring to mediaeval and early modern history are quite rare.

Thus any publication on the topic is welcome, as it enriches our reading lists and allows English language students to venture into the otherwise hardly-accessible territory of Latin, Hungarian, Lithuanian, and Slavic language publications based on sources in those languages. The more so when we are faced with so important a volume as the one presented here.

The Polish-Lithuanian Monarchy in European Context is the result of a colloquium held at the Queen's University, Belfast in 1999. Reading this collection one has to admit that the said colloquium was very well thought up and prepared. It gathered a group of 10 speakers, each an expert on various aspect of European monarchy in the early modern period, and each presenting a different aspect of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth/Monarchy in

the European context.

The volume opens with essays by Robert J.W. Evans and Ian Green, which set the stage and background for further deliberations. Evans sets the tone for the volume, challenging the existing opinions about Polish history and putting forth questions about the way it was understood and taught in the last century. He questions existing opinions about the uniqueness of Polish history, and goes on to suggest a comparison of Polish history with the German Empire, the Habsburg Monarchy or Brandenburg-Prussia that might amend our views (especially Polish views) of the "unique" history of Poland-Lithuania.

Ian Greed presents the most recent writings on the growth and transformation of early modern European monarchies, surveying various theoretical models described and applied by historians. In doing this he allows the reader to put the Polish-Lithuanian state in the context of early modern Europe and compare the different political solutions. One might ask, were they indeed different?

The remaining eight authors present various aspects of Polish-Lithuanian history in more or less unorthodox ways. This is done through the examination of new, hitherto neglected sources as Jūratė Kiaupienė does in her chapter; through looking at the Polish-Lithuanian state from a somewhat outside perspective as Karin Friedrich does; through presenting new and fresh interpretations of the "known" events and phenomena, which characterizes Robert Frost's and Jerzy Lukowski's contributions; or simply through rewriting parts of Polish-Lithuanian history as Mariusz Markiewicz and the editor of the volume, Richard Butterwick do.

The volume is dedicated to the problem of government and the relationship between monarch and subject in early modern Poland-Lithuania. The authors make an effort to present the newest findings but do so using concepts foreign to traditional history. Throughout the volume one feels a sense of freshness. With the exception of maybe one chapter, the authors have managed to present relatively well-known facts in a new and provocative way. This was done with full respect and appreciation for the old Polish historical schools and for the interpretations of earlier historians. Nevertheless we get an image from a different lens. A short look at the bibliography shows that the authors incorporated the results of all the newest works of both English and local historians. At least a small part of very impressive and important recent historical writings in Polish, Lithuanian, Russian, and Ger-

man is thus made available to English language students.

This volume is not a history of Poland-Lithuania in the early modern period, but it was not intended as a textbook. It is an invitation to discussion on the form of government of Poland-Lithuania in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries through the perspective of new methodological proposals developed by early modern historians. It is also the first English language book on this period and topic since the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, with a substantial contribution of historians on both sides of the former "Curtain."

Let me end with a very personal comment. While I consider the whole volume to be of great value, it was Jûratė Kiaupienė's chapter which was the biggest eye-opener for me. I must confess, much to my regret and that of my students, that for many years I have taught the history of the Polish-Lithuanian union as a voluntary act, backed actively by the lesser Lithuanian nobility. I am truly grateful that we can put away some of the old textbooks and study the history of Poland-Lithuania from several perspectives, not just the Polish one.

The book is very well edited and prepared for readers who may be new to the topic. It carries the necessary guides to the varying use of place names (English, Polish, Lithuanian, Byelorussian, Ukrainian, German and Russia), several maps, chronology and genealogical table of Polish monarchs, and a glossary of terms. In the opinion of this reviewer, the volume should find its way to all early modern European university seminars, not just those devoted to the Central and Eastern peripheries of Europe.

Emmanuelle Hénin. *Ut Pictura Theatrum: Théâtre et peinture de la Renaissance italienne au classicisme français*. Geneva: Librairie Droz S.A., 2003. 707 pp. + 70 illus. \$179. Review by KIKI GOUNARIDOU AND JESSICA RUSSELL, SMITH COLLEGE.

The comparison between theatre, the literary genre closest to the image, and painting, both of which *represent*, was so obvious to thinkers of the Renaissance and classical France that they took it for granted and did not even think to formulate an *ut pictura theatrum*. Hénin's book seeks to rectify this gap and to show how today's *ut pictura poesis* depends on the earlier *ut pictura theatrum*.