where the work was composed. Be that as it may, for colonial specialists, this book is not likely to be as useful as Villalobos' various fine monographs.

University of Ottawa

Jacques A. Barbier


Francisco de Paula Sanz, “faithful vassal and good Spaniard,” exemplified the Enlightenment bureaucrat of the late eighteenth century. Born in Andalucía, he advanced professionally through the patronage and protection of José de Cálvez. In 1777, Sanz, the rational, empirical man of reform, arrived in Montevideo as the director general of the royal renta of tobacco for the Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata. Included in Sanz’ appointment were instructions to undertake a complete survey on tobacco in the new viceroyalty. This assignment, part of a royal effort to increase local treasury revenues while destroying Brazilian contraband, marked Sanz’ first exposure to a region where he would spend the rest of his life, first as director of the tobacco renta, then as the controversial but effective Superintendent of Buenos Aires, and finally as the Intendant of Potosí.

*Viaje por el virreinato del Río de la Plata* contains excerpts from the hitherto unpublished reports sent by Sanz to his underlings in Buenos Aires during his long pilgrimage through this vast new viceroyalty. The trip, which was to give Sanz a direct knowledge of the entire region equalled by few other royal servants, took him first to Paraguay and Misiones (1779) and then to Tucumán, Cuyo, and Alto Perú (1779–1781). An excellent introduction by the editor reviews the purposes of this exhausting and dangerous excursion, and compares Sanz’ reports to those of other Spanish bureaucrats who traveled the same route. While careful to describe the criteria used for editing the reports and meticulous in identifying all selections, the editor makes no extravagant claims for the reports themselves. Sanz’ reports concentrated on the possibility of increasing production and/or consumption of tobacco throughout the viceroyalty, but they also provided information on the population, life-style, economy, culture, and habits of various regions. Sanz, a scrupulous, competent, and critical observer, differentiated between what he had seen himself and what he had only been told. These short, often intriguing, glimpses of eighteenth-century social and economic realities should be of interest to all students of colonial Río de la Plata.

Emory University

Susan Migden Socolow


The first in a projected series of books aimed at providing a synthesis of Colombian history based upon recent historiography as well as published primary sources, this volume encompasses the sixteenth century. The series is designed to serve be-