

de volgende zin, waar de auteur zich beweegt in het grensgebied tussen geschiedenis der techniek en economische geschiedenis: 'Presumably, stagnation in design was also true for merchant ships since Dutch shippers failed to expand their total volume of trade in the eighteenth century and that despite the ability of shippers from other nations to record sizeable percentage increases' (60). Een aantal mededelingen is bepaald onjuist: Enkhuizen was in 1570 geen 'village', de blinde was geen 'sprintsail', Nelsons 'Victory' dateert niet uit het begin van de negentiende eeuw. Dat iedere vermelding van de laat-middeleeuwse 'stadsoorlogsschepen' achterwege is gebleven valt te betreuren.

Wanneer wij Ungers boek toch een waardevolle bijdrage tot de geschiedschrijving van de Nederlandse scheepsbouw noemen dan is dat bijgevolg in hoofdzaak vanwege het gedeelte over de gilden (de daar parasserende Jan Gogel zal in feite wel Isaac Jan Alexander Gogel zijn).

Tot slot enkele opmerkingen over het taalgebruik. Dat doet hier en daar merkwaardig aan. Wat Unger 'wharf' noemt zou beter als 'dockyard' of 'shipyard' kunnen worden aangeduid. Onduidelijk is waarom de pinas consequent als 'pinnance' en niet als 'pinnace' ten tonele wordt gevoerd.

Ph.M. Bosscher

D. P. Blok, e.a., ed., *Algemene geschiedenis der Nederlanden, VIII, Nieuwe tijd. Sociaal-economische geschiedenis 1650-1800. Politieke geschiedenis 1648-1700. Religiegeschiedenis tweede helft 17de eeuw* (Haarlem: Fibula Van Dishoeck, 1979, 474 blz., f 119,-, ISBN 90 228 3809 9).

The reviewing of multi-authored works is often a difficult business, if one is to avoid the somewhat clumsy device of dealing with each contribution separately. In the present case the problem is compounded as there is also some doubt as to whether this volume should be seen as an independent publication at all, as it is one of five volumes covering the Early Modern period and these are in some sense to be regarded as an unity. One consequence is that certain matters which might seem to belong in this volume - such as trade with the East and West Indies in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries - are in fact dealt with elsewhere. Again, while the section on socio-economic history covers the period from the middle of the seventeenth century to the end of the eighteenth, the sections on political and social history only deal with the second half of the seventeenth century. Thus, on a number of general points judgement will have to be withheld until all five volumes have appeared - one assumes, for example, that a place will be found somewhere for cultural history.

With regard to what we do have before us, it is perhaps inevitable that there should be some unevenness in a volume of this sort - no editorial body can ensure absolute similarity of approach and style - and certainly here the differences between individual contributions are quite marked. With no less than twenty two separate authors (and nine editors) involved this is perhaps not surprising. However, it does seem a little odd that the chapter on agriculture in the North should be very nearly twice as long as that on agriculture in the South; and it is a little disturbing to find the nature of the contributions - ranging from a series of short biographies of bishops to the latest religious sociology - in the section on religion so diverse. Moreover, the overall coherence of the volume is not enhanced by the fact that most of the chapters on religion deal with the whole of the seventeenth century rather than the second half alone.

These are, perhaps, curiosities rather than serious weakness. What is less easy to accept are the imbalances which stem directly from editorial policy. It is all very laudable in such a work as this to put the emphasis on economic and social history, but to allot only fifty-four pages for the political history of both North and South in the later seventeenth century - a period not without its interest - is surely going a little too far. There is room for little more than potted conventional history, enlivened by enough insight to make us regret what might have been had the authors been allowed just a little more space. Also giving a bare twenty-one pages to protestantism in the North is distinctly restricting. Catholicism in North and South has rather more breathing space with some eighty-six pages.

These are drawbacks which one hopes will appear less glaring when the series is complete, but there are more positive things to be said. The section on economic and social history is on the whole a success and forms a good introduction to the results of recent research in this area. Despite the restrictions of space, the section on political history is a sound and useful survey; and the final section on religious history, although rather too uneven to be fully satisfactory, is packed with information, and reflects the fruits of much recent scholarship. This volume should be a useful introduction and reference work for the subjects covered, particularly as the bibliographies would appear to be uniformly good.

The book is well-produced, the illustrations are profuse, attractive, and relate helpfully to the text.

J.L. Price

R. Darquenne, *La dette publique belge de 1790 à 1830: le cas du Hainaut* (Collection histoire Pro Civitate, LV; Brussel: Crédit communal de Belgique, 1978, 193 blz., BF300,-).

L'étude du Docteur Darquenne sur la dette publique belge de 1790 à 1830 se fonde sur des sources de première main, dont la pièce maîtresse est le Fonds de l'ancienne dette constituée et de l'arriéré des Pays-Bas (A.G.R.);

La liquidation de la dette des Pays-Bas autrichiens se déroule sur deux plans: à l'intérieur, par les lois édictées par les occupants français et hollandais; sur la scène diplomatique, par les négociations entre l'Autriche, la France et la Hollande. Seul le premier aspect de la question est abordé par l'auteur qui examine la législation française, puis hollandaise, et son application dans les départements réunis. Le travail s'avère ardu. Les difficultés financières de la République, puis de l'Empire, les dévaluations monétaires, les mutations institutionnelles malgré une pérennité de l'ancien régime dans les mentalités, rendent la situation des anciens Pays-Bas autrichiens extrêmement complexe. L'auteur, qui dépouille depuis de nombreuses années aux Archives de l'Etat de Mons l'important Fonds français et hollandais, tente de rendre moins aride cette matière difficile en l'illustrant et l'explicitant par de nombreux exemples s'inspirant du cas spécifique du Hainaut.

Au moment de leur annexion par la France, les régions conquises se trouvent dans une situation sensiblement différente de celle-ci; non touchées par les lois antérieures à 1797, les communes ont gardé leur autonomie et leur patrimoine intacts, alors que les municipalités françaises ont perdu toute latitude administrative et financière et vu leurs biens liquides à la faveur de la révolution.

La première législation importante touchant la Belgique (loi du 9 vendémiaire an VI) divise la dette publique en deux parties, créant le tiers consolidé inscrit au grand livre de la det-