

de Herrera tient incontestablement le premier rang. Il naquit en 1559, et fut quelque temps secrétaire de Vespasien de Gonzague, vice-roi de Naples, et fut ensuite nommée par Philippe II. historiographe des Indes. Son ouvrage est ce que nous possédons de plus complet sur l'époque qu'il embrasse." The Spanish bibliographer Salva says: "Cet ouvrage est un des plus importants qu'on ait publiés sur les découvertes des Espagnols dans le Nouveau-Monde." Munoz, at the 22d page of the prologue to his "History of the New World," remarks: "Herrera eclipsed all other historians on the same subject which had till then been published, in fullness of matter, truth of narration, chronological arrangement, geographical accuracy, and beauty of style." J. Beldon de Guevara writes: "No one of all those who have writ on this subject has performed it with so much exactness as Ant. de Herrera." The Italian, Davila, observes "This history is very useful for all sorts of people, because the author's method is very good, being at the same time brief and intelligible, joining profound knowledge and undoubted truth, and undeceiving us as to many errors into which other authors have led us." The Scotch historian Robertson remarks: "Of all the Spanish writers Herrera furnishes the fullest and most accurate informations concerning the conquest of Mexico, as well as every other transaction of America; his Decades may be ranked amongst the most judicious and useful collections." The English bibliographer Dibdin observes: "Antonio de Herrera is well designated by Bishop Kennett as the chief chronicler of the Indies and Castile; he stands in the foremost rank of early American Historians." Our own Washington Irving, in his "Life of Columbus," concludes a judicious criticism thus: "Herrera has left voluminous proofs of industrious research, extensive information, and great literary talent. His works bear the mark of candour, integrity, and a sincere desire to record the truth." Ticknor, in his "History of Spanish Literature" accords him equal praise; and Thomas W. Field's "Essay on Indian Bibliography" concludes our series of eulogizers with the statement that "His work is a perfect treasure-house of the most valuable details, regarding the original state of the religion and manners of the Indians."

