

Richard J. Pym, *The Gypsies of Early Modern Spain, 1425-1783* (Palgrave: Basingstoke, 2007), ISBN 13:978-1-4039-9231-4 (hard), xiv + 219 pages.

‘This well written and conceived book [...] is very much a journey through an often hidden side of that period, for we see things not only from the viewpoint of the strong but also from that of the weak. Thanks to this excellent study [...] we are able to see Early Modern Spain from a multitude of perspectives that offer a much richer and more complex view of Golden-Age Spain than we have been accustomed to. Scholars and students alike will find reading this book a rewarding experience.’

Trevor J. Dadson

Queen Mary University of London

Hispanic Research Journal, 8:4 (2007)

‘Richard J. Pym’s new book is an important addition to the scholarship on marginalized groups in early modern Spain. [...] a compelling analysis of the gypsy presence in Spain over the course of four centuries.’

Elizabeth A. Lehfelddt

Cleveland State University

American Historical Review (June 2008)

The Gypsies of Early Modern Spain is ‘an excellent book on how the Spanish governing authorities tried and failed to suppress the distinctiveness of a minority society that contravened the centralising objectives of the early modern state. [...] a fascinating study that will interest students and general readers alike. It will also be invaluable for specialists seeking to understand the nature and limitations of royal authority in early modern Spain.’

Alistair Malcolm

University of Limerick

English Historical Review (October 2008)

‘Through his close and perceptive readings of available documents, Pym has woven a fascinating tale of the evolving notion of Gypsy identity according to those who wished the Gypsies to disappear. [...] Those seeking to understand the complex relationship between Gypsies and the erratic development of power structures in early modern Spain will find *The Gypsies of Early Modern Spain* an especially rewarding read. No other text explains more fully the complex relationship between this minority and the decrees and ordinances that sought to define and control it.’

Lou Charnon-Deutsch

State University of New York, Stony Brook

Bulletin of Hispanic Studies (2009)

The Gypsies of Early Modern Spain is ‘a fascinating and meticulously researched study [...] The book raises important questions about national identity, inter-cultural relations, competing jurisdictions and the effectiveness of legislative policy’ and ‘ sheds important light on the circumvention of the rule of law in early modern Spain and, by extension, the fragile premise of absolutism’.

Helen Rawlings

University of Leicester

Bulletin of Spanish Studies, 85:3 (2008)

Richard J. Pym (ed.), *Rhetoric and Reality in Early Modern Spain* (Woodbridge: Tamesis, 2006)

'Rhetoric and Reality in Early Modern Spain is a superb collection of essays that share, among other features, an interest in challenging certain conceptions, or accepted views, of history and of literary history. [...] Each essayist reads respectfully and ingeniously against the grain, so that the lessons of the volume encompass history, literature, and theoretical paradigms. Individually and collectively, the essays are enlightening and inspiring, full of ideas that whet the critical appetite.'

Edward H. Friedman, *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, 11 (2007)

(Edward H. Friedman is Chancellor's Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt University. He is editor of *Bulletin of the Comediantes* and former President of the Cervantes Society of America from 2002 to 2004.)