Louis B. Wright. *Gold, Glory and the Gospel*. New York: Atheneum, 1970, Pp. xvi, 363. \$10.

Beginning with the Portuguese expeditions to Africa and then to India in the fifteenth century, the author goes on to recount the voyages of Columbus. He makes clear that the navigator, Genoese like Prince Henry and his captains, was moved by the greed for gold, glory and the propagation of the gospel. Perhaps, the most rewarding aspect of this book is the author's effort to sort out the most interesting episodes of the great age of exploration. Through adventure after adventure, the extraordinary men that discovered and conquered the new land come to life and enchant us again with their perilous travels and incredible vicissitudes. Alvise da Cadamosto, Pero da Covilhã, Bartholomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, Pedro Alvares Cabral, Fernão de Magalhães, Hernán Cortés, Francisco Pizarro are among the well-known explorers and *conquistadores* whose feats Mr. Wright retells in the first eleven chapters.

Not until the twelfth chapter do the English enter the picture fully. Their main objectives were to prevent the Spaniards from catholicizing the whole New World and to enrich their homeland with precious stones and other commodities with which America seemed to be so generously endowed. To damage Spain, the raids on the coastal towns of Spanish America were not enough. To strike a decisive blow against the Spanish, Sir Walter Raleigh tried ardently to convince his countrymen to conquer Guiana which he thought to be rich in gold. Moreover, by winning the friendship of the natives, an attack could be made against the Spanish possessions and possibly capture Peru. Raleigh's failures to take over Guiana did not prevent the English from asserting themselves in tropical America.

The author devotes many pages to the Iberian preoccupation with conversion of the heathen on the one hand and their cruelty on the other. Perhaps he should also have dealt with the other side of the question: the English settlers' dealings with the native people, even if it meant extending briefly his history of imperial expansion into the seventeenth century. Since religion was one of the motivating forces in the exploration, an account of the English treatment of the Indians of North America would enable the reader to discern more easily the two main European attitudes, the Protestant and the Catholic, with regard to the heathen.

The omission of charts or maps, other than simple ones in the inside covers, is much more surprising, considering the ample use made of them in a book of this kind. In fact, they are extremely useful in illustrating the explorers' long and tortuous routes.

Two timely circumstances help make this book attractive. First, the space exploration with its thrill of the unknown. It is easier now for Wright to emphasize that the discoveries of the sixteenth century were even more dramatic than those in outer space. They were carried on without the help of modern technology and at a cost of many human lives. Second, the religious tragedy of Ireland, four centuries after the Age of Discovery, should impress us with the violent impact religious convictions had among the Europeans of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Wright's theory that religion was one of the strongest motives which shaped policies of imperialistic expansion, seems now much more comprehensible and plausible.

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