

I found a central claim—that the geography genre constituted an interchangeable exotic both to serve this commercial purpose and to celebrate profusion—less convincing, however. In van Kessel's *Allegories of the Four Continents* Schmidt sees “splendid heaps of consumable luxury and . . . chaotic display” (270), but I'm not sure this is the only message here. For against the heaps of things on the floor are set the carefully ordered things on the walls, in the architecture, on the globes, in the frames and books. This is a material world in transition from collectable to collected, and European viewers well knew their place in that transition. Schmidt here looks into but not at the paintings, and in consequence a large part of what is allegorical about them is missed—profusion, consumption, and wealth, yes, but these are offset by omnipresent references to the act and results of ordering. The theme of order is fleetingly touched on in relation to Temple's essay on English gardening but is otherwise unaddressed: Schmidt's priority is to argue that the Dutch were at work creating a disorderly exotic, not to explore the ways in which Europeans were at work rectifying it, an undertaking he attributes to the 1730s and beyond. Yet this dichotomy that he passes over is an important one, for the alignment was between the disorderliness of nature and exotic peoples, on the one hand, and the orderliness of God and of Europeans, on the other. The theme of order thus connects up Schmidt's other reflections on the European relationship to God, gold, and natural resources (whether people, plants, or animals).

There is a slight tendency at the start to let the extraordinary illustrations flow by, page after page, without detailed authorial comment or analysis, even though Schmidt possesses a formidable grasp of the production, use, and cost of early modern books and images. It is an unlikely remark to make, perhaps, when authors increasingly struggle with publishers to include images in publications; but I felt that fewer images, more systematically handled and used, would actually have benefited the volume. Similarly, I wondered about the selective borrowing of book historical methodology; where was the reader, or even the book reviewer, in the story? The bibliography lacks some studies of considerable relevance to Schmidt's arguments, such as works by Jardine, te Heesen, Welch, Nickelsen, Eisenstein, and Ivins. But overall, these absences only somewhat diminish the utility and do not tarnish the beauty of Schmidt's book.

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Des lettres pour gouverner: Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle et l'Italie de Charles Quint dans les Manuscrits Trumbull de Besançon. By *Giulia Grata*.

Besançon: Presses universitaires de Franche-Comté, 2014. Pp. 454. €35.00 (paper).

The surviving correspondence of Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle (1517–86), bishop of Arras from 1540, Cardinal Archbishop of Mechelen from 1561, and principal adviser to both Charles V and Philip II, comprises at least 50,000 letters in seven languages (Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, and Spanish). Publication of his letters began in his lifetime and still continues. The volume under review prints 149 letters in Italian exchanged between Granvelle and fifty-three correspondents between August 1551 and February 1552 filed in two of the ten volumes of Granvelle papers acquired in Brussels in the early seventeenth century by a British diplomat, Sir William Trumbull.

One of Giulia Grata's achievements is to draw attention to this elusive but important collection. In 1924, the *Report on the Manuscripts of the Marquess of Downshire, Preserved at Easthampstead Park, Berks*, volume 1, *Papers of Sir William Trumbull*, compiled for the

British Historical Manuscripts Commission, noted the existence of several volumes of “Letters of the bishop of Arras . . . of Philip II and others” and “on the Council of Trent,” most of them from the 1550s, as well as letters by other continental luminaries; but, it added tantalizingly, “the present volume does not deal with any of the above.” Three decades later, the Marquess of Downshire deposited the Trumbull papers in the Berkshire Record Office, in Reading, but with restrictions that virtually precluded their citation by scholars. Then in 1989, the majority of the collection migrated to the British Library, where they now form Additional Manuscripts 72,242–72,620, but they did not include the Granvelle items, which instead appeared at an auction in London, where the Bibliothèque Municipale d’Étude et de Conservation, Besançon, bought them—a sensible acquisition, because the library already owned 103 volumes of Granvelle papers. Nine of the Trumbull volumes have been digitized, and in November 2014 they became available online, together with a copy of the detailed *Inventory of the Granvelle Papers amongst the Trumbull MSS Deposited in the Berkshire Record Office, Shire Hall, Reading, by the Most Honourable the Marquess of Downshire* (London, 1959, <http://memoirevive.besancon.fr/ark:/48565/a011416414539AE831s>). They constitute a major new resource for the political and confessional history of early modern Europe, because virtually none of the letters have ever been consulted, let alone cited.

Des lettres pour gouverner contains Granvelle’s correspondence in Italian from just six months in 1551–52, while he advised Charles V in Augsburg and later in Innsbruck. With few exceptions (notably the sculptor Leone Leoni), his correspondents were relatively unimportant men—soldiers, lawyers, printers, merchants, bankers, clerics—who held humble posts scattered through Lorraine, Burgundy, Germany, the Low Countries, and Spain, as well as Italy, and who wrote mostly about minor matters. This relative obscurity proves an unexpected strength, because the routine nature of the letters lays bare part of the vast network—a veritable political machine—that helped Granvelle to govern. Some correspondents updated him on the education of his brothers at the University of Padua, others wrote about local politics and finance, and others still described diplomatic initiatives and gossip. Probably the most interesting letters in the collection came from Niccolò Belloni, a scholar and jurist favored by Granvelle’s father who resided at the court of Charles V’s niece, Duchess Christine of Lorraine. Belloni repeatedly relayed to his patron alarming reports that some German Protestant princes had signed an offensive alliance with the king of France and were laying plans to attack the emperor. Yet Granvelle refused to believe him, and his replies ridiculed and refuted every one of Belloni’s warnings—with the result that in May 1552 Charles and Granvelle had to flee ignominiously from Innsbruck to avoid capture by their enemies.

Grata prints a transcript of every letter arranged in chronological order (except for the undated minutes of Granvelle’s responses, each of which she places immediately after the message to which it replies), together with a summary in French and an impressive *apparatus criticus*. Her general introduction provides an overview of Granvelle’s papers, of the political situation in 1551–52, of the topics discussed in the letters, and of the idiosyncrasies of the language (from the punctuation and the accents to the syntax and use of loan words). She also provides a biography of each correspondent; a list of the places from which they wrote; an index of references to each person mentioned in the letters; a bibliography of works consulted; a concordance of where the letters appear in the manuscript volumes; and three maps in color (one of the European postal network at the disposal of the various correspondents circa 1550, the others of the political geography of Europe circa 1600—a strange date, since the contours of some states had changed since the 1550s, while Ferrara and Siena had ceased to exist as independent polities). Grata also includes a lengthy study of the “grammar and rhetoric” found in the correspondence, because the modest back-

grounds and accomplishments of the writers offer a new way to assess the diffusion of Humanist culture and epistolary norms. Her volume therefore illuminates the cultural, social, and political fabric of Europe at a critical moment.

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Sacral Kingship between Disenchantment and Re-enchantment: The French and English Monarchies, 1587–1688. By *Ronald G. Asch*. Studies in British and Imperial History, volume 2. Edited by *Andreas Gestrich*. New York: Berghahn, 2014. Pp. x+278. \$95.00.

In offering this sustained exercise in comparative history Ronald Asch does a very difficult thing well. He is, of course, ideally placed to do so as a scholar who is a German by birth and academic appointment, an Anglophile of long standing, and the published author of numerous works on individual English kings, as well as broader studies of absolutism, the European nobilities, and court culture. To emphasize the interconnectedness of the history of the French and English monarchies is scarcely a novel exercise. Indeed early modern contemporaries repeatedly ruminated on the theme. Cardinal Du Perron made a speech at the Estates General of 1614 deploring one of the Third Estate's proposals as being like the Jacobean oath of allegiance that "has swum from England" (54). John Dryden repeatedly went into print during the 1680s in order to compare polemically Whig critics of Charles II's government to late sixteenth-century French Catholic Leaguers. Several historians have also made much of the comparison, notably Paul Kléber Monod—with whom Asch has a running debate in the main text and, especially, endnotes—and John Miller (whose *Bourbon and Stuart: Kings and Kingship in France and England in the Seventeenth Century* [1987] is curiously not used). Nevertheless, Asch's study deserves respect and attention in its own right as the most assured and sustained account of the theme produced to date.

This status is achieved through a combination of conceptual clarity and rigorous comparison across a crucial century. Conceptually, Asch draws much inspiration from advocates of *histoire croisée*, notably Michael Werner and Bénédicte Zimmerman. Chronologically, Asch devotes successive chapters to what he sees as three key phases: an "Anglo-Gallican Moment," 1587–1615, of religious crises and dynastic interconnections; a testing time of transformation or destruction in the 1630s and 1640s; and the impact of Louis XIV's increasing dominance of European affairs, 1678–88. This endpoint brings the reader full circle back to the contemporary print that adorns the book's cover, of Louis XIV embracing the hapless and exiled James II as he arrives at Saint-Germain-en-Laye. These three sections are allotted roughly equal blocks of fifty to sixty pages, with the balance of the book taken up with almost sixty pages of endnotes and a daunting forty pages of bibliography featuring a multitude of works in four languages. This is certainly a book to be reckoned with.

A harsh critic might nevertheless note that Asch springs relatively few surprises. Specialists in any one or more of the phases of English or French history discussed will admire Asch's powers of analytical synthesis and his focused organization of a wealth of primary material. Yet the core points and explanations are relatively familiar, albeit often presented from unusual vantage points. The value of the book, though, is considerable and twofold. First, Asch successfully emphasizes the longevity of the connections between the two monarchies' problems and the potential solutions to those problems. Here we see a series of