

country after the Reformation. This correlation was a consequence of the triumph of doctrinal minimalism within the Anglican Church, where the quest for an uncontested road to salvation inspired and corresponded to the scientists' attempt to find a secure route for the generation of natural knowledge. After 1660, English scientists abandoned the conception of science as handmaiden to theology and offered instead an ideologically neutral, objective, and uncontentious means of establishing truth about the natural world that, at least implicitly, could be applied to religion as well.

Far more ambitious, but ultimately less successful, is Mario Biagioli's chapter on Italy. Loosely addressing himself to the perceptible marginalization of Italian science in the second half of the 17th century, Biagioli pays lip service to the inhibiting effects of the social and political decline of the Italian states—compared with France, England, and the Netherlands—and then turns to expand his earlier provocative interpretation of Galileo as a paragon of the Baroque courtier. Here he ventures to offer a grand interpretation of science in the age of absolutism, construed strictly in terms of power dynamics and self-fashioning images of contemporary rulers. The problem with Biagioli's highly reductionist tale of science as an affectatious courtly activity is not only that it ultimately reduces the scientists to sycophantic courtiers—concerned only with manipulating knowledge in order to secure the patronage of the absolutist prince, who, in turn, is preoccupied with little else than the spectacular—but that it is founded on highly selective scholarship. Biagioli's depiction of the Accademia del Cimento and the involvement of Prince Leopold de' Medici in its activities, for example, is at odds with much of the evidence about the Accademia. Even more problematic is the attempt to relate the model of courtly scientific etiquette to the situation in France and England. The claim that Louis XIV masterminded the foundation of the Académie des Sciences and, likewise, that his (absolutist) image guided, in the manner of an invisible hand, the work and publication program of its members is important to Biagioli's argument. Yet the fact of the matter is that Louis had nothing to do with the foundation of the Académie and, as Brockliss points out in his chapter, showed virtually no interest in its activities. Analogously, Biagioli's account of the nature of the English Royal Society is based on a selective use of secondary sources and ignores the complexities of the early years of that institution, which cannot be neatly fitted to his model.

David Goodman attributes the stagnation of scientific activity in the Iberian peninsula that occurred in the late 16th

century to the inhibiting power of Catholic fanaticism. Yet he dwells only briefly, at the end of his chapter, on the reasons for this stagnation and on the partial recuperation of cultural vigor in the 18th century. Instead, the bulk of his essay is devoted to the more glamorous period before 1600, when the Islamic and Jewish heritage, together with the experience of empire, resulted in important contributions to natural history, technology, and the life sciences. William Clark presents a "postmodern" account of science in the German nations, where disunification and the traumatic experience of the Thirty Years War gave a unique emblematic expression to the scientific endeavor: Out of the ashes of the old religious and scholarly order emerged a novel instrumental and technological ideal as the basis of a new social order. Elements of Paracelsian "sympathies," Keplerian "harmonies," and Leibnizian "mutual dependencies" all combined to offer Germans "a reciprocal relation within science between the technical and the social, the material and spiritual."

In contrast with such thought-provoking essays, the two chapters devoted to Poland and Bohemia leave much to be desired. Both Jerzy Dobrzycki and Josef Smolka adopt an old-fashioned and positivist view of the Scientific Revolution, interpreting their mandate as one to seek out "modern" world views and trace the careers of great men. Failing to locate "progressive" trends, both resort to old stereotypes and blame the Counter-Reformation—and especially the Jesuits' hold over education—for their absence. Particularly disappointing is Dobrzycki's seven-page impressionistic account of science in Poland from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Smolka offers a more informative account, concentrating on the court of Rudolph II and, in particular, on the career of Johannes Marcus Marci; nevertheless, his justification for the attention to Marci—"the only person who was able to come close to the 'new science'"—is indicative of the outmoded perspective.

Paul Wood and Sven Widmalm resolve an analogous problem with respect to Scotland and Sweden by simply glossing over the 16th and 17th centuries and stretching the Scientific Revolution to include the 18th century, during which both countries made important contributions to the scientific life of Europe. Both authors stress the significance of native institutional structures to the process of intellectual maturation. Widmalm emphasizes the importance of new modes of organization and the aggressive advocacy in Sweden of the theme of "patriotic" science in generating state and local support for scientific activity, as well as the relevance of such factors to the kind of science Sweden became known for: fact-gathering and classification. For his

part, Wood offers a valuable survey of the individuals and institutions that contributed to the diffusion of Newtonianism and the rise of chemistry. More generally, Wood dwells on the important place that was accorded to the natural sciences within the vibrant Scottish universities and intellectual circles of the Enlightenment.

Despite my reservations concerning the volume's lack of coherence and the unevenness of its contributions, I would recommend it for its attempt to address the interplay between the cosmopolitan nature of the scientific enterprise and specific national contexts.

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