

collective impact of the papers, however, is striking. What is absent is the strictly descriptive or chronological, the traditional taxonomic study without connection to larger social contexts. That connection is the important message of these two books.

*** BAVARIAN EARLY MODERN CATHOLICISM**

Maria José del Río
Universidad Autónoma, Madrid

Philip M. Soergel, *Wondrous in His Saints: Counter-Reformation Propaganda in Bavaria*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993. xv + 239 pp. 1 map & 14 b/w illustrations. \$30.00 (cloth).

This study focuses on the proliferation of pilgrimage books in early modern Bavaria. After reviewing medieval miracle chronicles and written attacks on these cults by Protestants, Soergel concentrates on the revitalization of pilgrimage texts as confessional weapons in the late sixteenth century. In the new context of the Counter-Reformation, these books were transformed from mere compilations of miracles to apologetic histories of shrines. While this study will interest those concerned with pilgrimages, its main value resides in its reconstruction of the cultural and political context behind the resurgence of a widely-read form of devotional literature. Early modern Catholicism as seen by Soergel was not only a world rich in ritual, but also a culture much more impregnated by the written word than is usually believed.

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Books from previous lists may still be available. For review copies, please contact:

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