

In trying to avoid parochialism, Dr Benedict has made comparisons on shaky evidence. Unlike the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the sixteenth century in France has not been well studied at a local level, mainly because of a relative lack of records; apart from good modern work on Lyons, Toulouse and a few other places, Dr Benedict has had to have recourse to nineteenth-century antiquarians and to a selection from other town's archives. To give one example, of the kind of rash generalisation that he attacks in his Preface, Dr Benedict cites the "many" English

Catholics in Rouen, without anywhere giving a figure or making a comparison with any other Catholic refugee centre in this period. I doubt if anyone knows how many English Catholics resided at Douai in, say, 1588, let alone at Rheims or Rouen. I prefer to trust the author's negative conclusions, such as the fact that Rouen belies the Hauser thesis that "the workingman's cause and the cause of the reform were one and the same". It is for insights such as this that *Rouen During the Wars of Religion* will be read by students of the Reformation.

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**JUDGES** by J. Alberto Soggin, (English translation by John Bowden, SCM Press, London 1981). pp xx + 305. £8.50.

Professor Soggin's name is now well known to English speaking students of the Old Testament through his admirable commentary on Joshua (1970) and *Introduction to the Old Testament* (2nd edition 1980). To these is now added this commentary on Judges which, as we have come to expect of Professor Soggin, is characterised by its learning, lucidity, and judiciousness, not to mention its delightful humour. The introduction is kept to a minimum, but without loss of essential information, fuller discussion being given, where necessary, in the body of the commentary. The theory that the Former Prophets constitute a 'Deuteronomistic history', as argued some forty years ago by Noth, is accepted as now established, with the additional refinements argued in recent studies by Smend, Dietrich, and Veijola concerning its stages of composition: a historical work (DtrH), a stratum influenced by the preaching of the prophets (DtrP), and a legalistic ('nomistic') revision (DtrN). In the commentary proper attention is carefully drawn to the prob-

lems which arise from passage to passage, and the method is to suggest lines of approach to them rather than doggedly insisting on a particular solution. Textual problems are succinctly but comprehensively treated at the beginning of each section.

The volume is written as a companion to the commentary on Joshua, with frequent references to the latter. Whilst this is on the whole satisfactory, there are some instances where it would have been more convenient, at the expense of some additional space, to deal briefly with problems instead of referring to the other commentary. There is a translational error on p 287 where the inhabitants of Gibeah are incorrectly referred to as Gibeonites, and again on p 296 where 'At Gibeah the roads for Bethel and Gibeah parted' should read 'At Gibeah the roads for Bethel and Gibeon parted'. It is regrettable that the binding of the book is likely to fall apart in one's hands.

This is altogether an excellent commentary and is to be warmly welcomed.

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