

Rolin's Rhodesia By H. Rolin translated by D. Kirkwood. Bulawayo, Books of Rhodesia, 1978, 304pp., illustrated, ZR\$17,00.

A Right to Be Proud By A. P. Di Perna. Bulawayo, Books of Rhodesia, 1979, 245pp., illustrated, ZR\$13,90.

These two works are part of a well known series of reprints but they both represent new departures for the publisher. The former of the two books is the first translation in the series and the latter is a reprint only in the sense that it is an updated and extended version of a Ph.D. thesis only a few years old.

Specialists in the early history of European rule in Southern Rhodesia have long known, and profited from, Rolin's *Les Lois et l'administration de la Rhodésie* (Brussels, E. Bruylant, 1913); this translation into English will now make this work available to a wider reading public. The book is largely a factual description of the way in which the British South Africa Company governed its territory south of the Zambezi, but it also has useful material on the organization of land settlement and mining. It is in effect, the nearest we have to a constitutional history of the B.S.A. Company, and it is a pity that an analytical introduction was not provided.

Di Perna's book is essentially an explanation of the reasons why Southern Rhodesia opted to end Company rule and become self-governing rather than a part of the Union of South Africa. The short answer of the author is that a Rhodesian nationalism had developed—and that it is only ignorance of that factor that has made Britain and the world underestimate Rhodesian determination since 1962. While there is some truth in this line of argument, it greatly oversimplifies the complexities of the 1922 Referendum and no account has been taken of considerable research, notably by Mrs Elaine Lee, a doctoral student of this University, much of which has been published.

Whatever criticisms may be made of these two books, however, it is important to welcome these new ventures by the publisher in making such works accessible to the reading public and students of Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

R.S.R.

The Yellow Mountain By L. Burton. Salisbury, Regal Publishers, 1976, 293pp., ZR\$7,50.

Spotted Soldiers By C. E. Dibb. Salisbury, Leo Publications, 1978, 160pp., ZR\$4,80.

Operation Zambezi : The Raid into Zambia By P. Armstrong. Salisbury, Welston Press, 1979, 256 pp., ZR\$2,75.

Ten years ago after ZAPU guerillas had clashed with security forces in the Wankie district several authors used the incident as a basis for novels about an imaginary war in Rhodesia. Wilbur Smith's *The Sunbird*, David Chapman's *The Infiltrators* and Lawrence van der Post's two novels *A Far-off Place* and *A Story like the Wind* all give a fictional rendering to that early incursion and all managed to invest it with a curious quality of fantasy. That is nothing new. Long after the armed resistance to the occupation of