

José M. Sánchez-Ron; Thomas F. Glick. *La España posible de la Segunda República: La oferta a Einstein de una Cátedra extraordinaria en la Universidad Central (Madrid, 1933)*. 93 pp., illus. Madrid: Universidad Complutense, 1983.

The title of this book clearly reflects the purposes of the authors. Not only do they explain and discuss the biographical issues associated with the Spanish offer of an "extraordinary professorship" to Einstein at the Universidad Central of Madrid in 1933, but they also attempt to describe the complex and multifaceted relation between Spanish society and science at the time.

A virtue of this book is that it answers most questions raised by the reader. Through critical reading of the correspondence between Einstein and Abraham Yahuda in particular, Sánchez-Ron and Glick render an account of Einstein's motives for first accepting and then rejecting the proposal. The authors also allow us to witness another occasion on which Einstein attempted to help young scientists to escape from the Nazi regime by incorporating them into foreign institutions.

The book contains six illustrations, four of them taken from the Spanish newspaper *ABC* in the 1920s and 1930s. The text is divided into four chapters. There is no subject index, but the work's brevity makes it unnecessary. Perhaps, however, it would have been preferable not to have divided the book into chapters, but to have presented the argument as a chronological whole. In this way, the reader could have better examined the role played by the Spanish press and its relation to the arguments addressed to Einstein by Yahuda and Pérez de Ayala. Similarly, a brief introductory description of how the Second Republic came into power could have helped the reader understand the shape of Spanish society at the time. These two issues, if treated in detail, could give the reader a closer look at those relations between Spanish society and science; they

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might be the starting point for a more extended analysis.

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