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PHILIP II

Patrick Williams

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In loving memory of my parents,
George and Freda

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

CURRENCY

The gold ducat of Castile, the coinage of governmental calculations, is used throughout. It was worth 375 *maravedís* (the normal coinage of account). The *real* was worth 34 *maravedís* and the *escudo* was worth 400 *maravedís* from 1566. American silver was calculated in *pesos*, worth 1.375 ducats. The Aragonese *libra* and the Catalan *lliura* were each worth about one ducat.

DATING

Spain adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1582, adding ten days to the date (See chapter 7) and this 'New Style' is used here. January 1 is taken as the beginning of the year rather than 25 March as in the Julian Calendar.

NAMES

I have used English versions of names of well-known people such as Philip II himself and Don John of Austria but otherwise have used Spanish names.