

Naturally the contents vary both in character and importance. Certain sections are veritable books in themselves. Among the most noteworthy are those written on the occasion of the centenary of Brazilian independence in 1922 when a great historical congress was held in Rio de Janeiro. For special mention may be singled out such topics as "Cem annos de independencia", "Coroação de D. Pedro I", "A paladina da Independencia" (the empress, Leopoldina, wife of Dom Pedro I.). There is an interesting chapter on the writer's father, Enrique Fleiuss, an artist of parts and perhaps the most famous caricaturist produced by Brazil. The book reproduces a number of the most striking caricatures dealing with the reign of Dom Pedro II. To the reviewer one of the most valuable sections is that devoted to Francisco Adolpho de Varnhagen, described by Oliveira Lima as the "founder of Brazil's national history". The appraisal of Varnhagen's place in Brazilian historiography is followed by a critical bibliography of his works. Of equal interest is the essay on the Historical Institute itself. Here the author, drawing in many instances on his vast fund of personal knowledge, writes not only with authority but *con amore*. The profound influence which the Institute during its existence of almost a century has exerted both on the writing of history and on the intellectual and spiritual life of the nation is clearly set forth. The roster of its membership would probably include a majority of the outstanding figures of the past one hundred years. Dr. Fleiuss may with justice declare that the Institute is the "living record of the history of Brazil and for the Brazilian people the *nosce te ipsum* of their national tradition" (p. 503). For those initiated into Brazilian history the book of Dr. Fleiuss will prove a quarry into which they may delve with profit; to those who do not have access to the publications of the Institute the work is all but indispensable.

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*Cartas del Libertador*. By VICENTE LECUNA. (Caracas: Lit. y Tip. del Comercio, 1929-1930. 10 volumes.)

Many important historical works have come out of Venezuela, but without doubt the collection under review is one of the most valuable that has appeared in recent years. Moreover, it has come at a very auspicious time since it was published shortly before the cen-

tenary of the Liberator's death. In November, 1928, President Gómez commissioned Señor Lecuna to undertake the task of compiling and editing the widely scattered letters of the great patriot, and for nearly two years no effort was spared to make the collection complete. The choice of the editor was an exceptionally excellent one, for he is widely known for his monographs on the military phases of Bolívar's life, for his private collection of Bolívar letters, and for his editing of the *Papeles de Bolívar* and a series of documents concerning the creation of Bolivia.

In 1830, when Bolívar, preparing to retire, resigned his command, he planned to go to Europe and take his papers, contained in ten trunks, with him. But finding himself unable to make the journey because of ill health, he indicated in his will that upon his death the papers should be burned. Happily, however, his executors did not comply with this request, and when one of them, Juan de Francisco Martín, together with General Daniel Florencio O'Leary, were expelled from the country they carried to Jamaica with them the ten trunks of documents. Ultimately, many of the letters of Bolívar contained in this collection, along with others received by O'Leary while in exile, were included in the *Memorias de General O'Leary* edited by his son and published by the Venezuelan government (1878-1883) in twenty-nine volumes consisting of three volumes of narrative and twenty-six volumes of documents. For many years this work was considered the chief source for the history of Bolívar.

The first documentary work on the life of Bolívar, however, was published in Caracas (1826-1833) in twenty-two volumes under the editorship of Francisco Xavier Yañes and Cristóbal Mendoza, and was entitled *Documentos relativos a la vida pública del Libertador de Colombia y del Peru, Simón Bolívar*. These volumes contained a number of his letters. Another work was that begun by the soldier-priest, José Félix Blanco, and continued through fourteen volumes (Caracas 1875-1877) by Ramón Azpurúa under the title *Documentos para la historia de la vida pública del Libertador de Colombia, Peru, y Bolivia*. In this work, published at the expense of the Venezuelan government, were many letters of Bolívar including those written to Sucre during the Peruvian campaign and certain letters to Bartolomé Salom from 1822. Also before the *Memorias* of O'Leary appeared, two other men collected Bolívar letters. In 1865-1866 the writer and musician, Felipe Larrazábal, published in New York his *Vida y correspondencia*

*del Libertador, Simón Bolívar*, in two volumes which contained a few letters, but unhappily both the author and several original Bolívar letters and documents were lost in a shipwreck. A second collector, Aristides Rojas, assembled a number of letters written by Bolívar to María Antonia Bolívar and to General Páez, many of which remained unpublished until they appeared in the present work.

After the appearance of the O'Leary collection, other individuals essayed the task of publishing documents emanating from Bolívar. In 1887-1888 three volumes of Bolívar letters (*Correspondencia del Libertador*) were published under the editorship of Andrés A. Level. This was somewhat in the nature of a supplement to the *Memorias* and contained a number of letters previously published by Blanco and Azpurúa. In his work were many errors, and letters from October, 1829, to December, 1830, did not appear. The Colombian, Juan Bautista Pérez y Soto, a little later began to assemble Bolívar letters from all parts of America, many of which had been unknown, but his death in 1926 cut short his labors although his collection was acquired by the Venezuelan government. In 1913, Blanco Fombono published in Paris a volume of Bolívar letters covering the period from 1799 to 1822. This was followed in 1921 in Madrid by a second volume covering the period from 1823 to 1825, in which were published a number of letters not hitherto known. From 1913 to 1926 a commission of the Academia de la Historia of Bogotá, under the direction of Restrepo Tirado, edited the archives of Santander in twenty-two volumes which contain the correspondence of Bolívar and Santander, some of which had never been published before. In the same period Christian Witzke, the director of the Museo Boliviano in Caracas, printed in the *Gaceta de los Museos Nacionales* (1912-1914) a number of important letters of Bolívar. Several of these likewise had not previously appeared. In the same period, too, Alberto Smith, the Venezuelan minister at Lima, obtained from the Argentine minister, Carlos T. de Alvear, a collection of letters, some original, which passed between Bolívar, Sucre, and Santa Cruz. These were printed in number 20 of the *Boletín de la Academia de la Historia* and in the *Papeles de Bolívar* of Lecuña, the first volume of which was published in 1917. This work of fifteen volumes contained documents pertaining to the life of Bolívar and two hundred Bolívar letters which had been obtained from original owners, from periodicals, and from copies. A number of these letters bore neither date

nor address and for that reason had not been previously published. In 1921, when the archives of General Salom were assembled, they were found to contain seventy Bolívar letters some of which had not been previously printed. In 1928, the Spanish Ambassador in Paris, José María Quiñones de León, presented to the Venezuelan government the papers of Bolívar which his progenitor, Juan de Francisco Martín, had not given to O'Leary at Jamaica. In this collection were copies of Bolívar's letters and orders which had hitherto been unpublished.

From the above mentioned sources, and from his own rich store of letters and copies, augmented by letters owned by other individuals, Señor Lecuna has assembled 2,157 letters of Bolívar, more than eight hundred of which have been copied from the originals. Volume I. contains the letters written through the year 1817. There is one letter for the year 1799; one for 1800; three for 1801; none for 1802; one for 1803; two for 1804; none for 1805; one for 1806; five for 1807; one for 1808; one for 1809; one for 1810; none for 1811; eleven for 1812; thirty for 1813; fourteen for 1814; thirty-seven for 1815; thirty for 1816; and fifty-four for 1817. Volume II. contains the letters for the years 1818 to 1821; Volume III. the letters for 1822 and 1823; Volume IV. the letters for 1824 and for 1825 through May; Volume V. the letters from June, 1825, to June, 1826; volume VI., the letters from July, 1826, to July, 1827; volume VII., the letters from August, 1827, to July, 1828; volume VIII., the letters from August, 1828, to June, 1829; and volume IX., the letters from July, 1829, to December, 1830. In this volume also is an appendix containing twenty-three letters which were obtained too late for inclusion in their proper places, together with two pages of *rectificaciones* and two of *erratas*. Volume X. is devoted primarily to an analytical index of 392 pages, the work of Esther Barret de Nazaris. This represents a tremendous labor and has been on the whole so well done that it deserves to be considered as a model of form for other indexers. Any defects that exist, such as the omission of proper names and references to certain letters, may well be overlooked because of the immense value of the index as it stands. The remainder of volume X. is devoted to a supplement to the appendix of volume IX., an *adición* containing a previously omitted letter of January 13, 1802, an index to the supplement of the appendix, and an analytical index to the supplement. The supplement to the appendix con-

tains an article from *El Faro Militar* for June, 1845, in which are quoted three undated letters from Bolívar. Following this are twenty-seven letters from Bolívar covering the period from 1819 to 1830 which were not inserted in their proper places. Besides the general index each volume contains its own non-analytical index.

The work has been edited with great care and with an intelligent appreciation of its importance. In every case, space has been left where words cannot be made out, where they are missing, and where the paper is torn away. Missing dates and addresses have been supplied wherever possible, frequently after great and painstaking labor, and have been indicated in parentheses. Marginal notations in the original letters are given in footnotes, and frequently the editor has introduced at the end of letters certain requisite explanations. Some of these (volume I., p. 265 ff.) concern a number of apocryphal letters and falsified texts and are particularly interesting. In several instances, letters to Bolívar have been printed so that the reader may better understand his replies. The illustrations in the ten volumes number fifty-two and constitute a unique collection in themselves. Besides these, there are ten photographic reproductions of original Bolívar letters.

In reading this work one has the feeling that here is the Liberator's autobiography, for so much of the man himself appears. It is evident, however, that Bolívar was not above the average as a letter writer, and that his grammar, diction, and spelling were not faultless. One is more impressed by the quantity of his letters and the variety of the topics treated than by the style of his writing. Yet as one reads the letters one after the other one cannot help but admire this remarkable man for his depth of vision and his undoubted genius. Certainly, scholars owe a great debt to Señor Lecuna and the Venezuelan government for making available a work which should be most widely welcomed and extremely useful.

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