

## HISPANIC AMERICA IN FRENCH PERIODICAL LITERATURE DURING 1931

The growing interest in France in Hispanic American history and institutions has already been touched upon by the present writer in his brief survey of French periodical literature for the last six months of 1930.<sup>1</sup> The present article will embrace the entire year 1931. Of the various magazines brought under review, by all odds the most important is the monthly *Revue de l'Amérique Latine*, directed by MM. Ernest Martinenche and Charles Lesca.<sup>2</sup> In the January number appears an article by Dr. Rodrigo Octavio, "Le découverte du nouveau monde et les activités françaises dans le Brésil primitif". As jurist, poet, historian, one of the founders of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, and a member of the Supreme Court of Rio the author is well known to all students of all things Brazilian. Most of the ground traversed in the article under review is familiar but the author has rescued from oblivion the figure of a Frenchman, Guido Thomas Marlière, a French officer who entered the service of Brazil early in the last century. He resigned from the army and devoted his latter years (1813-1829) to the conversion and civilization of the Indians of Minas Geraes, thus winning the title of the "Apostle of the forests of Minas".

In the same number, Professor Louis Baudin of the University of Dijon, the greatest living authority in France on the civilization of the Incas, has contributed an article, "L'empire des Incas d'après quelques écrivains français des 16<sup>e</sup>, 17<sup>e</sup>, et 18<sup>e</sup> siècles". M. Baudin shows that the writings of these men, which at one time enjoyed a great vogue, rest upon a very slender basis of facts. Especially is this true of the greatest favorites, Marmontel's *Les Incas* and Raynal's *Histoire des Établissements et du Commerce européen dans les deux Indes*. M. Baudin will be remembered as the author of *L'empire socialiste des Incas* (1928) and *La Vie de François Pizarre* (1930). Also in the January number of the *Revue de l'Amérique Latine* is a long article by Dr. Víctor Andrés Belaunde, editor of *El Mercurio Peruano* and at present a member of the faculty of Miami University, entitled "La

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Convención de Ocaña. The significance of this assembly of 1828, the last desperate attempt of Bolívar to prevent the break-up of his creation of "Great Colombia", is perhaps for the first time made fully intelligible. The article will presumably form a chapter of a book on which Professor Belaunde has for some time been engaged.

In the April number of the same review are two articles of considerable interest. The first by Raymond Ronze, "Deus éducateurs argentins, Ricardo Rojas et Juan B. Terán" is an appraisal of achievements of two of the most outstanding of Argentine intellectuals of the present day. Dr. Rojas, the rector of the University of Buenos Aires, has risen to eminence as a poet, literary critic, and historian. Dr. Terán is one of the two founders of the University of Tucumán and is the author of a number of works on Argentine history. He has recently been appointed to a chair of history at the University of Buenos Aires. The other article, by Philéas Lebesgue, "Impressions d'un émigrant français au Mexique en 1857" is a vivid description of conditions in Mexico City in the middle of the last century. The July number of the same magazine contains the first of a series of articles by the well-known Venezuelan historian, Dr. L. Vallenilla Lanz (now minister to France), entitled "Disgregación e Integración", a penetrating sociological study of the development of Venezuela.

The publication in 1930 of a three volume monograph by the Canadian archivist Edmond Buron, *Ymago Mundi de Pierre d'Ailly, Texte latin et Traduction française des quatre Traités cosmographiques de d'Ailly et des Notes marginales de Christophe Colomb* (Paris, Maisonneuve) has been the occasion of at least two articles during the past year. The first, appearing in the *Revue de l'Amérique Latine* for August is by J. M. González de Mendoza and is entitled "Le Cardinal d'Ailly, inspirateur de Christophe Colomb". The second appeared in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* for September 15, and was from the pen of the distinguished French critic, Charles de La Roncière. Its title, "Le livre de chevet et la carte de Christophe Colomb", suggests the importance which M. de La Roncière attaches to the book which Columbus "kept under his pillow". It is quite possible that both of these writers unduly stress the extent to which Columbus was beholden to the cardinal. Yet the indebtedness of the great Genoese is evidenced by the voluminous and painstaking annotations of the *Ymago Mundi*, now for the first time made readily available by Mr. Buron.

In the September and October numbers of the *Revue de l'Amérique Latine* appear under the title of "Pasteur et le Brésil" a series of extraordinarily interesting letters between the French scientist and Dom Pedro II. The emperor was a great admirer of Pasteur whom he knew personally in Paris, and to whose Institute he contributed 100,000 francs. He repeatedly urged him to visit Brazil. Pasteur declared (in November, 1880) that had he been younger and stronger he would have liked nothing better than to spend a year in Brazil to study yellow fever. The letters were collected and edited by Dr. Afranio Peixoto, the president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters.

In the October and November numbers of the same review appear two thoughtful studies by the Chilean economist, Moisés Poblete Troncoso. The first, called "Quelques aspects de la politique agraire en Amérique latine" deals with the economic and social evils of *latifundia*. A series of tables indicates that, with the exception of Mexico, comparatively little progress has been made during the past few decades in reducing the number of large estates. In the case of Chile actual retrogression has taken place. In 1916, there were 248 estates of more than 5,000 hectares; the number rose to 591 in 1926 and to 599 in 1928, constituting in the last year named 56 per cent of the agricultural lands of the republic. The second article is entitled "Le développement du communisme en Amérique latine". If we are to believe the author communism has assumed alarming proportions during the past few years and the ordinary methods of suppression, such as those employed by ex-President Ibáñez (exile to Easter Island, etc.) are powerless to check it. The conclusions of Sr. Poblete are worth quoting:

Le moyen le plus efficace pour enrayer le communisme se trouve dans la réalisation d'une politique de justice inspirée du développement de la culture, la protection des plus faibles et la réparation plus équitable de la richesse.

In the January number of *France-Amérique* G. le Gentil, chargé de cours at the Sorbonne, has summarized in an article entitled "L'Indien et le droit" a series of lectures presented by the Brazilian jurist, Rodrigo Octavio, at the Hague in 1930. On the basis of data which must have been very difficult to assemble is given an account of the legal status of the Indians from the period of discovery to our own day. In the same number of *France-Amérique*, Dr. John Nicoletis of the University of Rio de Janeiro discusses the causes and developments

of the Brazilian revolution of 1930 under the title of "Les événements politiques actual du Brésil". The author finds the explanation of the revolt in the attempt of the state of São Paulo to perpetuate an unjustified preponderance of influence in the federation.

In the March and July numbers of the same review, Dr. Rodrigo Octavio completes his study, begun in the November (1930) number, entitled "La participation étrangère au développement économique du Brésil". In his discussion of the legal status of foreigners in Brazil, he brings the story up to the present time and includes an account of the concession granted to Mr. Henry Ford by the state of Pará. Despite the sweeping terms of this concession the writer sees no occasion for alarm as there is no delegation of the powers of the state.

In the *Revue des Sciences Politiques* for March, 1931, Miss Janette Bailey Check has set out to acquaint the French reading public with the attitude of the United States toward the Nicaraguan imbroglio in an excellent article entitled "La politique des États Unis au Nicaragua et sa signification judiciaire".

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#### NOTES ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Under the direction of Professor Menéndez Pidal, President of the Royal Spanish Academy, is being prepared a *Historia general*, which will be published by the firm of Calpe of Barcelona. The most eminent historians of Spain have offered their coöperation. It is reasonable to suppose that a number of the volumes will contain material on Hispanic America.

Dr. Charles Upson Clark, while carrying on investigations under the Smithsonian Institution, had the good fortune to discover in the Vatican Library the manuscript of a work on the Indies by the Carmelite friar, Antonio Vásquez de Espinosa, with the title *Primera Parte del Compendio y Descripción de las Indias Occidentales*. The author received permission for the publication of this work in 1629 but owing to his death the following year, it remained, save for a few sheets, in manuscript form. The writer had traveled widely throughout Peru, Central America, and New Spain, and his work, which is shortly to be issued by the Smithsonian Institution in the original