

is a little jarring for instance to read repeatedly "Zocala" for "Zocalo."

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*La primera imprenta en las Provincias Internas de Oriente. Texas, Tamaulipas, Nueva León, y Coahuila.* By VITO ALESSIO ROBLES. (Mexico: Antigua Librería Robredo de José Porrúa e Hijos, 1939. Pp. 79.)

Timely and scholarly, this account of the beginnings of printing in the northern provinces of New Spain is a contribution both to the history of the Internal Provinces of the East and their cultural development. The author gives a brief but effective summary of the introduction of the first printing press in Mexico in 1539, as the result of the efforts of Bishop Zumárraga, and the spread of its use to the rest of the two Americas up to the beginning of the XIX century. He then summarizes the incidents that led to the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition in 1813, pointing out that it was Álvarez de Toledo who brought the first press to Nacogdoches, set it up, and set the type for the first issue of the *Gaceta de Texas*, which was to have been issued there on May 25, 1813, but which was actually printed in Natchitoches, where Álvarez Toledo fled after May 29.

The first press in Texas, the author declares, was the one brought from England by Mina and operated by Samuel Bangs, of Boston, on the island of San Luis, near present Galveston, from which issued the first *Proclama del General Mina*, dated at Galveston on February 22, 1817. It was this same press which was used to print the second proclamation of Mina at Soto la Marina, in Tamaulipas, dated April 12 of the same year, although the author believes it was actually printed on board one of Mina's ships while at anchor at or near the mouth of the Rio Grande.

He then relates how Arredondo captured the press and the printer at Soto la Marina and took them to Monterrey, where both were utilized as early as 1817. The author questions the assertion of Wagner concerning the priority of the proclamation of Arredondo in 1820 as well as the identity of the press used for the purpose.

With a wealth of heretofore unused material, the author narrates how the same press and printer went to Saltillo in 1822, where they remained for a year. He follows the development of printing in Saltillo, Monterrey, and Victoria until 1830 and lists many interesting items that issued from the press in these pioneer outposts of Spanish civilization.

This study of the beginnings of printing in the Internal Provinces of the East is indispensable to the student of Spanish-American culture in the Spanish Southwest. It constitutes a welcome contribution and a worthy memorial to the five hundredth anniversary of the invention of moveable type and the four hundredth anniversary of the introduction of the printing press in America.

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*Bosquejos históricos.* By VITO ALESSIO ROBLES. (Mexico: Editorial Polis, 1938. Pp. 467.)

It is a rare occasion when one is permitted the pleasure of reading a series of historical sketches based for the most part on previously unknown documents without having to check the sources (and without having to look at footnotes). The reading of the *Bosquejos Históricos* is such an occasion. The author of these sketches, Ing. Vito Alessio Robles, statesman, engineer, historian, university professor, and without doubt Mexico's greatest living authority on her colonial history, has again scored with a delightful series of short articles cleverly debunking certain historical theories and graciously approving and strengthening others. The prolific pen (or should we be modern and say typewriter?) of Alessio Robles has a way of surprising his friends with treatises written in the best Prescott manner. But this Mexican historian is not only disinterestedly scholarly (a rare trait in any Latin historian), but delights in making the history of collections of documents in Mexico an intriguing story far stranger than fiction.

The sketches embrace many different themes, with those on the colonial history of northern Mexico and Texas predominating. Those sections hold a warm spot in Alessio Robles' heart, because he was born in Coahuila and has spent some of his happiest days in exile in Texas. The rôle of Alberto del Canto as the founder of Saltillo is again made secure in three of the sketches. The origin of the city of Parras merits a fourth sketch, while a fifth, most appropriately for modern trends, relates the gruesome story of the anti-Semitism practiced in Monterrey in the late 16th century against the Carvajal family. It is interesting to note that the small Jewish settlement of San Luis has in time become the great industrial city of Monterrey, today the stronghold of Mexican Fascism! Brief articles give additional light on the church and convent of Huexotzingo; the work of Juan Larios (the "Las Casas of Coahuila"); the origin of the name Coahuila; the faking of seals of Mexican cities and states during the