

El Despertador Americano fittingly indicates the awakening of America, and in New Spain, America meant Mexico. This first example of a free press in Mexico stirred the people out of their lethargy. The second, *Ilustrador Nacional*, tried to mould the revolutionists into national unity. Most of the periodicals were devoted to the propagation of revolutionary doctrines, but there were others which were primarily official organs containing war communiques, official orders, and brief accounts of events—such was the *Gaceta del Gobierno Provisional Mexicano de las Provincias del Poniente* (1817).

Altogether the author has made a valuable contribution to the study of the independence movement in Mexico, and his work may also serve as a guide to further study. The book contains adequate footnote references and a bibliography, and particularly noteworthy in a Mexican work is the presence of an index of proper names and a table of contents, the latter at the end of the volume in the form of an index to periodicals.

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Some Newly Discovered Poems and Pamphlets of J. J. Fernández de Lizardi (El Pensador Mexicano). Prepared by the personnel of the Works Progress Administration. A. Yedidia, supervisor. Paul Radin, editor. [Occasional Papers, Mexican History Series, No. 1.] (San Francisco: California State Library, Sutro Branch, 1939. Pp. 78.)

An Annotated Bibliography of the Poems and Pamphlets of J. J. Fernández de Lizardi: the First and Second Periods (1808-1823). Edited with an introduction and notes by Paul Radin. [Occasional Papers, Mexican History Series, No. 2, Part I in 2.] (San Francisco: California State Library, Sutro Branch, 1940. Pp. 313. \$1.00.)

The Opponents and Friends of Lizardi. Edited with an introduction by PAUL RADIN. [Occasional Papers, Mexican History Series, No. 2, Part II.] (San Francisco: California State Library, Sutro Branch, 1939. Pp. 134. \$0.75.)

In his introduction to No. 1 of the Mexican History Series, the editor adroitly reconstructs, in part, the history of these Lizardi items. Upon the death of *El Pensador Mexicano*, Alejandro Valdés, one of Lizardi's publishers, presumably added to his own stock recently acquired personal copies of the author's works. Some time later the Valdés holdings came into possession of Francisco Abadiano, another

publisher. According to some "indications" Adolph Heinrich Joseph Sutro made considerable purchases from Abadiano. The editor succinctly deals with Lizardi's conduct during the revolutionary years 1810-1812; the incipient character of his prose style; and Lizardi as publisher, together with a listing of the ten forms his imprint took. The "Bibliography" consists of four divisions: 1, "Poems and Prose Dialogues previously unknown to Bibliographers," forty-one entries with annotations; 2, "Poems and Prose Dialogues previously known but not seen," nine items; 3, "Rare Periodicals," four titles; 4, "Miscellaneous," three entries of which two are by a Lizardi opponent and are entitled *Carrera militar y literaria del Pensador Mexicano (Cartas primera y segunda)*. The "letters" are also two of the nine "Poems and Pamphlets Reprinted." *El Crítico y el Poeta* the only unknown piece of Lizardi verse discovered in the Sutro Collection is also reprinted.

Mexican History Series No. 2 was inevitably a zealous editor's next project in view of the cache of sources wherein he found himself. As the preface states this number in all its parts "is an attempt to reassess the lifework of the great Mexican writer and thinker in the light of all material—old and new— . . . to be found in the Sutro Collection." Concisely, it emends and supplements the contributions of three Lizardi scholars, notably, Luis González Obregón, Nicolás Rangel, and Joseph Rea Spell.

Criticisms adverse and favorable appear throughout under the following headings: Lizardi's Life (1776-1812); Bibliography (1808-1811); Lizardi's Life (1813-1819); Bibliography (1813-1819); Lizardi's Philosophy of Life (1817-1819); Lizardi's Life and Ideas (1820-1823). And reprinted completely or in extract are Lizardiana epitomizing the several phases of his literary and political career.

It is only necessary here to mention several of the significant points clarified or deduced by the editor; which sum up finally to an extraordinarily constructive work. Contrary to previous biographers, notably Spell, Lizardi had done considerable writing before publication of the *Polaca* in 1808. Interpretations of Lizardi cannot afford to ignore the fact that he was "a typical impoverished member of the creole class." Lizardi's "liberal ideas" were matured, contrary to Spell, before "he started his literary career." Two dialogues antedate the publication of *La Visita a la Condesa de la Unión* (March 17, 1812) which Spell dates as the beginning of Lizardi as a prose writer. These editorial references are not meant as deliberate criticisms of an excellent work but as facts which newly discovered evidence has laid bare.

Among the numerous bibliographical details herein furnished, two

especial features are the location symbols for copies in other libraries; and a listing of the essays in the several issues of *El Pensador Mexicano*. One regret only can be expressed: the fact that this project was suspended before the concluding part of this critical bibliography could be laid in press.

Part II of the Mexican Series is a sequel to Part I. In as much as Lizardi wrote chiefly on controversial issues of the day, he made enemies, drew their fire, and returned it. Moreover, he had "liberal" colleagues, almost as talented as he with the pen, who stood steadfastly by him. In that it points to voluminous sources for a study of Lizardi from this angle, this No. 2, part II emphasizes again the unique richness of the Sutro Collection.

Lizardi's opponents may be divided into three groups. The first, in which were Mariano Soto, and *El Papista* (Fray Manuel Mercadillo?), was identified with the Church and the ruling government clique. The members of the second, ably led by José María Aza, and *El apreciador de los verdaderos servicios*, were of the Church and politically conservative but expressed themselves in individual fashion. Moreover, there were "liberals" jealous of Lizardi. And apart from all these were "the cynics and ivory-tower intellectuals."

Among all his friends, who outnumbered his outspoken enemies, no two were more stouthearted and gifted than Pablo Villavicencio and Rafael Dávila. Their pamphleteering activities are intentionally neglected here because of special monographs which were in preparation concerning them.

To summarize and to point out the prominent landmarks was, in the reviewer's opinion, the most satisfactory manner in which to stress the import of this bibliographical offering edited by an intensely enthusiastic but acutely critical scholar.

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Contribución a la historia de Centroamérica (Monografías documentales). By SOFONÍAS SALVATIERRA. (Managua: Tip. Progreso, 1939. 2 vols. Pp. 568, 524. \$5.00.)

This is the first extensive history written by a Nicaraguan that has appeared since the works of Dr. Tomás Ayon and Dr. José Dolores Gámez. The author, Sofonías Salvatierra, during a period of political exile from his native country, spent some six months examining documents in the Archive of the Indies. Naturally, this period only permitted the study of a limited portion of the hundreds of legajos relating to Central America and Nicaragua. As a consequence, some of the