

century later Pedro Teixeira started out to the west on a voyage that by that time could have integrated into the current imagination. Unfortunately for his subsequent fame it was the legend of Orellana which persisted. Here we have an attempt at perspective by grouping in the same volume three accounts covering the one voyage of Orellana and the two of Teixeira.

It is a useful and interesting juxtaposition. Compared with present-day accounts, these look a little threadbare, giving only the barest outlines, often distorted, of what the travelers saw and experienced. But one should not thereby condemn them. They offer useful suggestions of the world from which they had come, of what they were seeking, and of how much they and their descendants had still to learn. And yet it is curious to contrast them, for example, with the great report of the Herndon-Gibbon expedition of the mid-nineteenth century. During the interim not much had been learned and much of that had been forgotten. To a certain extent the same is true today. As we become immersed in the details of our present accomplishments it is convenient to remember the past and thereby acquire a certain becoming humility.

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*Mensuras de Ginés de Lillo* [Colección de Documentos Relativos a la Historia Nacional, Tomo XLVIII, Introducción de Ernesto Greve; Tomo XLIX, Introducción de Aniceta Almeyda.] (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Universitaria, 1941 and 1942. Pp. xc, 344; xx, 379.)

The feudal aristocracy of colonial Chile had as its main bases two institutions, the *encomienda* of Indians and the *merced de tierras* (land grants). The former, during the recent years, has become increasingly familiar to students of the period; the latter, aside from occasional references by Vicuña Mackenna, Amunátegui Solar and other national historians, has hitherto awaited adequate exposition. This the editors of the present work, Ernesto Greve and Aniceta Almeyda, and their sponsors, now supply in this two-volumed edition of the *Mensuras* (surveys) of Ginés (or Jines) de Lillo.

The *visitador de tierras*, whose name is attached to these records of early seventeenth-century surveys, was an appointee and intimate associate of Alonso de Ribera, one of the best of Chile's early governors. His task, which extended to the environs of Santiago, occupied him for some eighteen months, from August, 1603, to January, 1605, and included the examination and survey of titles, together with such per-

sonal declarations as the reputed owners and other witnesses cared to present.

Such records, based on original grants by governor and cabildo and supplemented by further testimony concerning six decades of possible purchase, inheritance or continuous occupancy, naturally constituted an important landmark in later colonial litigation. To the student of today they afford numerous glimpses of governmental procedure together with considerable economic and social data. The perusal of this material is greatly furthered by the introduction and footnotes of Señor Greve to Volume XLVIII and of Señor Almeyda to Volume XLIX.

The doughty captain, it seems, was called away from his task, to accompany his superior to Tucumán. After his return to Chile he became *Maestre de Campo* (staff officer) to his patron. A petition of his, dated in 1621, complains that he has little to leave his children in return for his services in Europe and America, but papers "which are the payments of His Majesty." Death came to him in 1630, as to so many others, at the age of 64, in the endless campaigns against the Araucanians.

The records of his famous surveys in separate *cuadernos* passed through the hands of various custodians, but those that survived were finally bound in two parchment volumes which in 1925 the local government of Santiago turned over to the Archivo Nacional, along with other municipal archives. Señor Lizardo Valenzuela undertook the transcription of the difficult seventeenth-century text, but, unfortunately, did not live to see his work in print. On the initiative of the present director of the Archivo, Señor Ricardo Donoso, and with financial aid furnished by the Commission on the Fourth Centenary of Santiago, these two volumes form the current offering of the Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía. Each has a brief analytical table of contents and the final one an alphabetical list of the surveys. The editors and sponsors and the Imprenta Universitaria are to be congratulated on this scholarly production.

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*El cabildo en Chile colonial. (Orígenes municipales de las repúblicas hispanoamericanas.)* By JULIO ALEMPARTE R. (Santiago: Ediciones de la Universidad de Chile, 1940. Pp. 451. Bibliography.)

The author of this monograph is a young professor in the *Escuela Militar* of Santiago, whose family name is linked with Chilean literature and history. In brief compass he presents a documented study of