

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

the local *cabildo* and at the same time devotes considerable attention to other colonial municipal centers and to more recent general interpretations of the Spanish régime in America. In particular he endeavors to lift from the metropolitan government part of the onus of the "black legend" (*leyenda negra*) imparted to its rule by nineteenth-century liberal historians and to show that the creole leaders, as colonists and as revolutionists, passed through stages of development similar to those of the transplanted groups of the northern continent. Thus he contends, as do many of his fellow students, that the creole element in the Spanish colonies enjoyed many more opportunities for self-government and acquired a more independent spirit than similar elements in the home land. In furthering this view he represents the wars for independence as a civil conflict rather than merely a struggle between the colonies and the metropolis.

After an explanatory "Introduction" he devotes a "Preliminary Chapter" to the municipal organization in medieval Castile. This, in turn, he derives from the *concilium*, which he traces to a Germanic rather than a Roman origin—as yet a dubious assumption. He then divides the main work into six chapters. In the first he describes the founding of *cabildos* in various colonial centers, ending with that of Santiago. Having thus transferred the institution to America, with much of its original force and power and with the prospect of increasing its prestige there, he devotes the next five chapters to describing in detail the local *cabildo*. He might also have designated this institution as the *ayuntamiento* or *regimiento*, in referring to specific functions, or even as a general term might have used the Roman, *res publica*. He affords us a view of the municipal framework, its personnel and functions, its procedure and powers, and its relation to other colonial officials and agencies, such as the church and the *audiencia*. Nearly a hundred pages are devoted to economic functions, including the fixing of prices, the regulation of monopolies and of speculation, the system of labor, sumptuary laws and the control of municipal property. "The Fifty Arms of the *Cabildo*" embrace such activities as defense and the local militia, justice and the right of asylum, public health, public works, public instruction, aid in case of general disaster and virtually all other factors affecting the urban populace. This, be it noted, included contiguous suburban areas. In performing its manifold functions the *cabildo* of the capital showed alternate periods of progress and decadence for more than two centuries after its founding.

His longest and most interesting chapter is the final one, devoted to the War for Independence. As a background for the work of the

cabildo during this period, he reviews, and, to a certain extent, over-emphasizes earlier incidents that in his judgment display the customary turbulent spirit of the creole aristocracy. This forms the background for the contention that that struggle as a whole is really a civil war, with some peninsulars aiding the insurgents and some creoles supporting the royalist cause. This assumption again leads to a comparison of this struggle with the contest for independence in the English colonies. Señor Alemparte takes the position that the colonists in the nineteenth century would have thrown off the Bourbon yoke through internecine strife or foreign intervention had Napoleon never invaded Spain, and he minimizes the influence of the North American and French revolutions. The Napoleonic intervention, he believes, simply hastened the inevitable rupture between peninsular and creole interests. The important cabildos afforded convenient centers for the opening phases of the contest and the memory of earlier municipal outbreaks against royal oppression again furthered resort to this tried agency in the colonies as in the home land.

The author's bibliography includes manuscripts, many of them from the Medina collection and from the National Archives, both of which are housed in the Biblioteca Nacional. His printed titles show a wealth of primary and secondary works, embracing writers from both North and South America and from both sides of the Atlantic. He regrets that he has not been able to examine other sources, but is confident that had he done so, they would not have changed his conclusions but reinforced them. The author makes extensive use of foot-notes but permits the usual analytical table of contents to take the place of a general alphabetical index. Sr. Alemparte has written a stimulating book—one that deserves favorable reception and will contribute to further investigation. We hope he may find the opportunity to realize it in person.

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*Parva crónica de la Sierra Madre y las Pimerías.* By FERNANDO OCARANZA (Mexico: Editorial Stylo. 1942. Pp. 156. Paper.)

This neatly printed volume is publication Number 64 of the *Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia*, long under the able direction of Ing. Pedro C. Sánchez. The author modestly enough informs us in the preface that although out of the subject matter there could be made *una crónica grande* his work is not a *gran crónica*. What the author does here is to take various seventeenth- and eighteenth-century records relating to the Jesuit missions on the west coast of northern