

American towns so placed, it had the usual complement of struggles between civil and church authorities, of difficulties between encomenderos and Indians, of attacks by marauding or revolting Indians, and of the anxieties and deprivations of a frontier community. An Indian attack in 1686 almost destroyed the settlement and an earthquake delivered the final stroke in 1692. It was never refounded.

Concepción del Bermejo, officially *La Concepción de Nuestra Señora*, had its site on the Bermejo River, somewhat to the west of the Paraguay—the author does not place it with exactitude. Corrientes was its nearest neighbor. It was founded to facilitate communication between Asunción and Tucumán and to provide an advance post from which the Indians of the Chaco might be dominated. The author states that Concepción had the same relationship to Asunción as Esteco had to Tucumán (p. 139). The town's rather brief history was filled with Indian insurrections. The governors of the region themselves stated that these disturbances were particularly owing to the abuses which the encomenderos committed against the Indians (p. 158). Ultimately the Indians won the victory and in 1631 the place was abandoned.

The study is exceedingly well documented. The sources cited are largely primary, much of them being unpublished documents from the Archivo General de Indias. Format and general make-up of the volume are praiseworthy. Dr. Torre Revello, author of numerous studies of a similar nature, has made another admirable contribution to his country's colonial history—and to the general history of the American frontier.

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Germans in the Conquest of America, a Sixteenth-Century Venture.

By GERMÁN ARCINIEGAS. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1943. Pp. 217. \$2.50.)

In this English version of *Los alemanes en la conquista de América* (Buenos Aires, 1941), the translator, Ángel Flores, has captured much of the vividness of Señor Arciniegas' prose style, already noted in a previous review of the original Spanish edition.¹ The present volume has much in common with the author's earlier book, *The Knight of El Dorado*. As in that work, Señor Arciniegas here seeks to tell his story in impressionistic fashion, to create in the reader's mind a succession of vivid historical images, rather than to

¹ See THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, XXIII (1943), 89-90.

produce an historical monograph. The book is definitely addressed to the general reader, but its synthetic and interpretive qualities commend it to the specialist as well. Devoid of scholarly references other than a short final bibliography, the volume nevertheless reflects the author's thorough knowledge of the basic literature on the conquest period, with the possible exception of certain German monographs.

For the first time, so far as this reviewer is aware, an attempt has been made in this book to give unified treatment to hitherto separately studied facts of German participation in the Spanish conquest of the New World. The opening chapters are wisely devoted to a highly readable account of foreign—and particularly German—penetration of Spain's isolationist barriers, a penetration that followed rapidly Mad Juana's fateful marriage to Philip the Handsome of Burgundy and Hapsburg. These chapters present a veritable pageant of German merchants, printers, mariners, miners, and most important of all, bankers' agents, who flooded into Spain in the train of the Catholic monarchs' cosmopolitan grandson, Charles. The author has succeeded well in capturing the resentment of the Spaniards at this foreign intrusion.

Naturally the well-known exploits of the Welser agents in Venezuela and in New Granada bulk large in the story. But the writer has followed earlier students of the Welser enterprises in depicting the Venezuela episode as merely one aspect of the widespread money-making projects of the Augsburg bankers in the dominions of Charles V. Thus Welser financial participation in the exploration and conquest of the Río de la Plata, which had as one fortunate consequence the sailing in Pedro de Mendoza's fleet of the German chronicler Ulrich Schmidel, receives extended treatment. Less space is assigned to the cautious Fuggers, rivals of the Welsers, whose largely abortive projects in southern South America and in Pacific exploration still remain to be studied in detail.

Various explanations have been advanced for the Germans' eventual failure in their Spanish-American enterprises. Perhaps the most widely accepted is that which holds that bitter dislike by rank-and-file Spaniards for the foreign intruders finally persuaded the increasingly Spanish Charles to annul the privileges and holdings of the Germans. Señor Arciniegas contributes a supplementary explanation, indicative of his essentially American point of view. To him, German failure derives from the fact that "while the Spaniards are banding together, growing and multiplying in the heat of the American soil, the blue-eyed, red-bearded conquerors, the bankers'

agents whose hands are yellow from piling gold, depart." Strangely enough, the author does not emphasize the rather obvious fact that the "bankers' agents" were never more than a few leaders in command of Spanish soldiery which in any event inevitably would have founded a Spanish society in America. It is an interesting study in the influence of national origins upon historiography to compare Señor Arciniegas' explanation of German failure with the interpretation of K. Häbler, leading German student of the subject, whose *Die Überseeischen Unternehmungen der Welser* (1903) portrays his fellow countrymen's enterprises as an important early manifestation of the German colonial impulse.

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El Gran Marsical José de La Mar. By LUÍS ALAYZA Y PAZ SOLDÁN. (Lima: Gil, S.A., 1942. Pp. 328.)

This early little known president of Peru was born in Cuenca, Ecuador, on May 12, 1776. Through a royal judge who was his uncle, he secured a good education. He fought in the Spanish army during the Napoleonic wars, escaped from a French prison, and was rewarded by appointment to the office of *Subinspector* of the Viceroyalty of Peru.

The San Martín invasion of Peru found La Mar opposing the independence movement. However, he refused the appointment as viceroy in 1821 and was soon thereafter on the patriot side, serving as Jefe de la Junta de Gobierno de 1822. Five years later, he was elected president of the independent Republic of Peru. But revolution soon ended his administration. He died in exile in Cartago, Costa Rica, on October 12, 1830.

This biographer ranks La Mar with Bolívar, San Martín, and Sucre. He becomes eloquent and emotional in presenting his hero as the founder of Peru, as a man preferring exile to the further murder of his countrymen. The work is far from being objective. In fact, the labored effort to give La Mar historical stature has unfortunate effects.

The work is divided into three sections. The text of the biography requires 134 pages; explanatory notes, 158 pages; relevant documents, 129 pages. There is no formal bibliography.

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