

This facsimile edition was presumably reproduced from copies of Nos. 1 and 3 in the possession of Ricardo Levene, president of the Academia Nacional de la Historia, who wrote the introductory historical essay. Ariosto Domingo González, the eminent Uruguayan publicist, contributed a facsimile copy of No. 2. The initial issue of *La Nueva Era* contained an editorial by Lamas which furnishes a clue to his selection of the title. He envisaged the siege of Montevideo as the beginning of a "new era" in the history of the republic. To the military column of this issue, Mitre contributed an unsigned article entitled: "La montonera y la guerra regular." The issue of February 26 was devoted primarily to the texts of important contemporary public documents: the proclamation establishing the Assembly of Notables; documents relating to the installation of the Council of State; and the speech of President Joaquín Suárez before the opening session of the Assembly of Notables. Mitre filled the military column with another article: "Necesidad de la disciplina en las Repúblicas." Extracts from the proceedings of the Assembly of Notables and Council of State dominated the entire third and probably final issue of March 8.

For giving wider circulation to hitherto elusive Uruguayan public documents, students of Hispanic America are again deeply indebted to the Academia Nacional de la Historia for sponsoring this publication. And, in the last sentence of the historical essay, Dr. Levene sums up the argument for this choice: "*La Nueva Era* has documentary significance if it is recalled that in its pages are recorded the extraordinary events which preceded the revolt led by General Rivera; and that therein is revealed the political and historical thought of young men, representative of the River Plate region, who were fighting for freedom."

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Men of Mexico. By JAMES A. MAGNER. (Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1942. Pp. x, 614. \$4.00.)

Some historians believe that history is largely the biography of great leaders in whose lives and work the aspirations and desires of their contemporaries find expression and fruition. Regardless of the shortcomings of this point of view, it comes nearer being true in the case of Mexico than in that of any other country. No one can deny that men like Jefferson and Jackson left an indelible stamp on American democracy and that their lives are an integral part of its development. In like manner Cortés, Las Casas, Zumárraga, Quiroga,

and Mendoza left an imperishable imprint and gave direction to forces that have shaped the character and the culture of Mexico.

Men of Mexico attempts to bring together the lives of seventeen men from the last Aztec ruler Montezuma II to Lázaro Cárdenas. Seven men represent the preconquest and colonial period: Montezuma, Hernando Cortés, Bartolomé de Las Casas, Juan de Zumárraga, Vasco de Quiroga, Antonio de Mendoza, and Count Revilla Gigedo II. The selection does not include all the men who played an important rôle in the colonial period, such as Pedro de Gante and Alonso de la Vera Cruz, pioneer educators, but on the whole it would have been impossible to include all the outstanding figures in a period of three hundred years.

The movement for independence is represented by three men: Miguel Hidalgo, José María Morelos, and Agustín de Iturbide; while the period since the attainment of independence is represented by seven: Antonio López de Santa Anna, Benito Juárez, Maximilian, Porfirio Díaz, Venustiano Carranza, Plutarco Elías Calles, and Lázaro Cárdenas.

The inclusion of Maximilian, a foreign prince, a tool of French ambitions, a pathetic and tragic figure of a well-meaning but deluded man, was unnecessary. It certainly cannot be said of him that he is "an integral part of the nation and rises, as it were, from its very soil," as the compiler states in the preface.

The lives of the men chosen are properly set in the historical background of their epoch, and the rôle they played is well related to their times. The book makes an excellent introduction to what the compiler so aptly calls "a country of paradoxes." The personal success of some of the later characters seems paradoxical itself.

The biographical studies are neither critical nor thorough, but in the main, the basic facts are correct. Some of the minor errors, if any error can be called minor, are: the mistaking of Luis Ponce de León, a former *corregidor* of Toledo, who was appointed *juez de residencia* in 1526 and died shortly after his arrival in Mexico with the discoverer of Florida (page 46, note 8); referring to Cortés as "Señor Malinche," when this name was never applied to Cortés, but to the famous slave girl given to him and known as Marina or Malintze, which means evil woman (page 47); the attributing to Las Casas the first Mass sung in the New World in 1510 (page 63); fixing the date of the arrival of the first printer and the first printing press in 1537 (page 104); the translation of the famous *Grito de Dolores* as "Hail Our Lady of Guadalupe! Long live Independence!" when it should

be "Hail Our Lady of Guadalupe! Down with Bad Government" (pages 206, 214). Let this suffice.

The text is preceded by seventeen illustrations of the men whose lives form the subject of the book. All in all, it is a readable account. It should prove of value to the many who have recently become interested in our neighbor to the South, who wish a rapid glimpse without the exacting effort of a more formal approach to a subject that is perplexing to say the least.

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Archeological Studies in Peru, 1941-1942. By WILLIAM DUNCAN STRONG, GORDON R. WILLEY, and JOHN M. CORBETT. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1943. Pp. 222.)

This volume includes four papers describing the archeology of the central coast of Peru, one of ten projects carried out in Latin-American countries during 1941 and 1942 by the Andean Institute. Support for the Andean Institute's program came from the Office of the Coördinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the work was conducted in coöperation with the local scientific institutions and scientists in each country. The effect of this program in furthering relations between the scientists of the United States and the other coöperating countries was no less important than the scientific results.

The scientific objective of the program was to establish a chronology of the development of New World civilizations. Where written history and dated monuments are absent, the best means of establishing chronology is a determination of ceramic sequences—the temporal succession and spacial distribution of the hundreds of pottery types made by American Indians at different periods in different places. Ceramic sequences are best determined by stratigraphic studies: careful excavations with meticulous sherd counts to show the changes in styles at different levels in a rubbish heap or other accumulation of material at a site where human beings have lived. Once the relative chronology of pottery types is known, other remains which are far more interesting and more illuminating scientifically may, by noting their association with the ceramic types, readily be placed in a chronological scheme. Then it will be possible to trace with certainty the development of agriculture, metallurgy, architecture, community types, various manufactures, and other elements of prehistoric cultures.