

Mitre, un historiador frente al destino nacional. By JOSÉ LUIS ROMERO. (Caracas: La Nación, 1943. Pp. 36.)

It is heartening to read so convincing a presentation of the importance of historical studies for the shaping of history itself as Professor Romero here presents in his enlightening essay on Argentina's great historian-president-publicist, Bartolomé Mitre.

Mitre's career was centered in the several decades following the overthrow of the dictator Rosas in 1852, when a new perspective was desperately needed to resolve the welter of passions, of distrust, and of schism in which the Republic found itself. In his penetrating studies of Belgrano, Rivadavia, and San Martín in particular, Mitre re-interpreted his country's crisis in the larger context of the commanding ideal of national unity. He recalled the centralist but reactionary *porteño* minority to the liberal but democratic ideals of the authors of their original revolt from Spain. He also exercised the sterile provincial prejudices of the Federalist majority in the light of the overpowering ideal of the nation's destiny. In 1860 Mitre himself became the president of a re-united people dedicated to the realization of liberal and progressive ends.

Mitre was a profound student of biography. Substantive factors such as geographic, economic, and social realities were important to him, but only as limiting factors. The dynamic element in history he found in the personal championing of creative ideas by the great leaders of the hour.

The author closes his essay with the thoughtful suggestion that his country may again be in danger of losing its bearings because it is insensitive to the historical consciousness that made Mitre a statesman. Wise conduct, he observes, can rest only on the discovery and honoring of those obligations which the continuity of a common destiny, conceived in an ever enlarging context, imposes upon the nation.

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Los artistas pintores de la expedición Malaspina. By JOSÉ TORRE REVELLO. [Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Estudios y documentos para la historia del arte colonial, II.] (Buenos Aires: Casa Jacobo Peuser Ltda., 1944. Pp. 105. Forty-five illustrations.)

It takes an historian who is also himself a painter, like José Torre Revello, to put together such a volume as the Faculty of Philosophy

and Letters of the National University of Buenos Aires has just published on *The Painters of the Malaspina Expedition*. The text of this book; its appendix of pertinent documents collected by the author during his years of research in Spain; its lists of original drawings by the painters of the Malaspina expedition and of related engravings made in Madrid; its extensive bibliography and comprehensive description of the forty-five illustrations which enrich the volume; its general index and special indices (of places, ships and institutions; of persons and illustrations)—all of these things bespeak the conscientious historian. The handsome title page and initial letters, the competent evaluation of the illustrations, bespeak the talented artist.

The author and the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the National University of Buenos Aires are to be congratulated in this publication. So too are students of American history, geography, art and the general development of the Western Hemisphere who desire to know what its nascent cities, its Spanish colonists, and indigenous peoples looked like, from the island of Juan Fernández to Nootka, at the end of the eighteenth century.

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Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by American Universities, 1943-1944.

Compiled for the Association of Research Libraries. Edited by EDWARD A. HENRY. (New York: The H. W. Wilson Co., 1944. Pp. xiv, 88. \$2.50.)

This is an eleventh annual survey, and like the previous volumes it contains items classified by fields of knowledge. It also contains the following interesting statistical tables: "Tables of practice of publication and loan of doctoral dissertations," "Distribution of doctorates for the years 1934-1935 through 1943-1944 by subject and years," "Distribution of doctorates for the year 1943-1944 by universities and by subjects." In his introduction the editor has tabulated the total number of dissertations for each year from 1935 to 1944. This shows a decline of almost forty per cent in the number of dissertations for the year 1944 (2,117) below the high figure for 1941 when there were 3,526 dissertations. In fact the figure for 1944 is the lowest in fourteen years, that is, since 1930, when there were 2,078 dissertations listed. As in the case of the past two or three compilations, some titles have been withheld as "secret war research." In 1943 there were forty-three of these, while this year there are sixty-