

significant social and economic developments, and this technique tends to break the monotony of a recital of facts. As one might assume, the author has little time for interpretation when covering the entire history of Brazil in ninety-four pages.

If there were no reference in the foreword to the author's position in the Brazilian foreign service, the reader would suspect a connection. About six pages are devoted to José Maria da Silva Paranhos, Baron of Rio-Branco. There is some doubt in the mind of the reviewer that even "The Baron" deserves so much attention in this very short history. The revolution of 1930 and the Vargas administration, incidentally, rate less than two pages.

Senhor de Mendonça has written a remarkably compact book which should serve its purpose well. The average Mexican reader will learn the essential facts of Brazilian history, and if he should want to acquire greater knowledge, the references to the works of Calogeras, Freyre, Normano, and others, will serve as a guide for further study. The publication of similar short and inexpensive histories of the Latin-American states would be a great help to the North American reader.

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Brazilian Literature. An Outline. By ERICO VERÍSSIMO. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1945. Pp. ix, 184. \$2.00.)

This slender volume contains a series of lectures delivered by Senhor Veríssimo while he was visiting lecturer in Brazilian literature at the University of California in 1944.

The book is an informal and eminently readable history of Brazilian literature, from the discovery of Brazil to the present moment. Of the twelve chapters, the last six deal exclusively with the twentieth century, and two-thirds of the more than 225 writers mentioned or discussed fall within this period. The total effect is inevitably somewhat that of a catalogue. The author himself says, "And here I close this chapter [X] with the vague sensation that I have just finished copying a telephone directory."

Poetry and fiction are the branches of letters to which Senhor Veríssimo devotes the greater part of his attention, and his most penetrating critical efforts are to be found in his treatment of the novel. The author traces Portuguese and French influences on Brazilian literature, emphasizing the fact that in the last twenty years Brazilian writers have largely discarded foreign models to find inspiration in the people of their own varied regions. He considers *Os sertões*, fortunately now available in English translation, the most representative work of his country. It

is regrettable that Senhor Veríssimo's modesty precluded mention of his own novels, which are among the most widely read in Brazil, and of which two have been translated into English.

In outlining Brazilian literature, the author also gives us an outline of Brazilian history, pointing out the influence of political and social factors upon the development of literary movements. Of interest to American readers will be the pages on the Vargas dictatorship and the problems it poses for liberal intellectuals. Senhor Veríssimo does not criticize the present government; but since he states that he believes in a democratic regime with free elections and a free press, we know very well where he stands.

The tone of the book is intimate, pervaded by the sympathetic personality of the author. Although it is overcrowded with names and titles, it is rarely dull. The Macmillan Company is, however, to be blamed for not having edited the style more carefully; many sentences and phrases sound more like literal translations from Portuguese than like idiomatic English.

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Páginas de história franciscana no Brasil. Esboço histórico de todos os conventos e hospícios fundados pelos religiosos da Província da Imaculada Conceição do sul do Brasil, desde 1581 a 1758, e das aldeias de índios administrados pelos mesmos religiosos desde 1692 a 1803. By FREI BASÍLIO RÖWER, O.F.M. (Petrópolis: Editora Vozes, 1941. Pp. 660. Illustrations.)

The need that has long been felt for a recent and detailed treatment of the Franciscans in Brazil has now been filled in part by Frei Basílio's study of the establishments of the Order in the south of Brazil during part of the colonial period. The bulk of the volume, modestly called an "esboço," is devoted to the convents of Vitória, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santos, Macacú, Penha, Angra dos Reis, Itanhaem, São Sebastião, Taubaté, Cabo Frio, Itú, and Bom Jesus. The remainder describes the *hospícios* and *aldeias de índios* scattered through the south of the country. The study is not a general history of the Order, but, rather, a work-book and a source of information. As such it is invaluable. The establishments are taken up separately and treated chronologically. Cross-reference, however, is easy, so that a general view may readily be obtained by correlating the accounts of the various foundations. Great quantities of unpublished material in the archives of the Order have been drawn on, and many leads for further study are to be found in the foot-notes and in the extensive bibliography.

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