

the lead in commemoration of that event, has reprinted the biography of the hero by Vallenilla Lanz and has authorized the beginning of the official publication of the *Archivo Sucre*. The present volume is an echo of these remembrances and a gesture of sympathy from Ecuador for the Venezuelan who commanded the patriot forces in the decisive battle for the liberation of Quito, who married a Quiteña, and who showed a marked predilection for the city during the latter years of his life. Among miscellaneous documentary items relating to Sucre's career, for the most part available in print elsewhere (in the collection of O'Leary and of Blanco and Azpurúa), there appear a number of letters from Sucre to the municipal authorities of Quito during 1822. Reprints of several commemorative essays and panegyrics on the "Grand Marshal of Ayacucho" are also included, together with personal, genealogical, and necrological items of interest to students of Sucre and of nineteenth-century Hispanic-American rhetoric. The book is a minor item among the publications inspired by the sesqui-centennial celebration. The dedication of the volume to Venezuela, however, is an interesting indication of the continued vitality of the ties of sympathy among the "Bolivarian" republics, which recent administrations in Caracas have emphasized.

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*El pensamiento vivo del General San Martín.* By ARTURO CAPDEVILA. [Biblioteca del pensamiento vivo, 34.] (Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, S. A., 1945. Pp. 180. Paper.)

San Martín was a man of action. He left his stamp on men and events through his great decisions, his leadership, the weight of his example. It is difficult to present such a man to later generations through a selection of his writings. Further, San Martín, like Washington, is remarkably non-self-revelatory in his correspondence. The general and the patriot appear, as do other aspects of character and opinion, but the whole man remains hidden. The editor of the present volume thus faced greater difficulties than those who produced the companion volumes in this series on certain contemporaries of San Martín: Bello, Moreno, Bolívar, for the first two were intellectuals and the latter had a genius which expressed itself not only in action but in essays and state papers. Arturo Capdevila indicates frankly in his preface that the volume is a tribute to the cult of the Argentine national hero. As such, the book fulfills its purpose. As a judicious and balanced presentation, in San Martín's own words, of his significant attitudes and policies it is less satisfactory. The order in which items are printed is confusing;

dates of some are not given; the sources from which they are taken are not referred to. For instance, the questionable Lafond letter on the Guayaquil interview, the original of which has never been located, is printed here without comment. Students of history will find the work unsatisfactory as a record of political action, but no one can read it without a feeling of respect for a man whose rectitude, disinterested patriotism, and iron self-discipline vie with his military talents for the admiration of posterity.

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*Breve historia del Perú.* By MAX. H. MIÑANO G. [Biblioteca enciclopédica popular, 31.] (México: Secretaría de Educación Pública, 1944. Pp. xiv, 94. Paper. \$.25 m/n.)

*Breve historia del Perú* by Max. H. Miñano G. is an attempt to present a sketch of Peruvian history for the average reader. It contains more words than its ninety-four pages would suggest, for the print is small and the lines close together. Packed into this somewhat restricted space is a description of the geography and natural resources, a recital of the glories of the Inca empire, an account of the Spanish conquest and of the age of the viceroys, an outline of the struggle for independence, and a resumé of the vicissitudes of the republic. The story of these epochs in Peru's development is not limited to politics, but embraces economics and culture as well.

This is definitely not a book for anyone seeking detailed knowledge of Peru's past. Important incidents are mentioned, but due to the limitations of space, are not elaborated on. For example, the quarrels among the Spanish conquerors are disposed of in less than a page; and again, both Lord Cochrane and San Martín are listed as liberators of Peru, but their bitter personal enmity is not mentioned. Considering the nature of the book, neither this lack of elaboration nor the similar lack of much attempt at interpretation should be considered as faults. *Breve historia de Perú* was designed to afford basic information to people previously uninformed on Peru. It accomplishes its purpose in large part.

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*Breve Historia de Venezuela.* By JUAN OROPESA. (Biblioteca enciclopédica popular, 42.) (Mexico: Secretaría de Educación Pública, 1945. Pp. 110. Paper. \$.25 m/n.)

This readable little book is remarkably successful in summarizing in a few pages the main developments of Venezuelan history prior to the