

Zapiola taken in 1853 as well as a written description of this musical leader, whose autobiographical sketches, plus these scholarly additions, make this a worthy fifth number in the *Biblioteca de escritores chilenos*.

ISAAC J. COX.

Louisiana State University.

*Estudios de historia política y literaria*. By RICARDO DONOSO. (Santiago de Chile: Prensas de la Universidad de Chile, 1945. Pp. 222. Paper.)

Between the covers of this modest volume the author, the director of the National Archive at Santiago de Chile and well known for his careful historical studies of the viceroy Bernardo O'Higgins, of the stormy journalist Antonio José de Irisarri, and for other well documented monographs on aspects of Chilean history, has assembled eleven fugitive essays from the many that he has written in his busy life. Some of these are papers which he has read before learned gatherings, some are commentaries inspired by historical controversies, and some are gleanings from unpublished documents which he has handled in the course of his professional activities. The subject matter of these essays is mainly related to events and personalities of the nineteenth century, beginning with a defense of José Miguel Carrera, charged with being a traitor shortly after the War of Independence, and ending with commentary on the book *Diplomatic Episodes in Mexico, Belgium and Chile* by that somewhat notorious North American diplomat, Henry Lane Wilson, and published in 1927.

This collection of short articles throws light on the early history of the Chilean National Library, on the cultural life of Santiago including its colonial university, on the remarkable group of historians that Chile produced in the nineteenth century, and on the work of the great bibliographer José Toribio Medina; and all these accounts are written in a pleasant, readable style. Several are especially valuable to the historian because of the unpublished materials on which they are based, sometimes quoted at length.

IRVING A. LEONARD.

The University of Michigan.

*La Argentina*. By RUY DÍAZ DE GUZMÁN. *Noticia preliminar de ENRIQUE DE GANDÍA*. [Colección Austral, 519.] (Buenos Aires: Espasa-Calpe Argentina, S. A., 1945. Pp. 225. Paper. \$2.25 m/arg.)

There have been ten editions of this early history of the discovery, conquest, and colonization of the Río de la Plata lands. Written by

the son of Alonso Riquelme de Guzmán, who had come to the New World with Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, and of Ursula Irala, daughter of the great conquistador and his Indian bride, Ruy Díaz de Guzmán made the history he wrote, heard it from the lips of family and friends, read it in the reports and documents of his time. Like that other Díaz of Mexico—Bernal Díaz del Castillo—Ruy Díaz wrote living history. Unlike him, he had been born in this new land and, feeling it to be his own, called it *patria*. Bernal Díaz told a story of marvels as wonderful as any to be found in the strange countries of the fantastic adventure novels of his time; the history of Ruy Díaz is the far more sober account of one familiar with the land of which he wrote since he himself belonged to it.

His book is divided into three parts. The first covers the period from the discovery of the Plata region to the time of Irala; the second, from Álvaro Núñez to the coming of Bishop Latorre; the final part, from 1555 to the founding of Santa Fe by Juan de Garay.

Despite many errors in historical fact—for much of this book was based on oral report—*La Argentina* is of fundamental value. Although not published until 1835, it was dated in 1612. By that time Ulderico Schmidel's *Viaje al Plata*, the *Comentarios de Álvaro Núñez* by Pero Hernández, and Martín Barco de Centenera's historical poem, also called *La Argentina*, had already been published in Europe. But it was upon the work of Ruy Díaz that Argentine history was founded. It served as the basis for the successive chronicles of the great Jesuit historians, from Lozano and Guevara down to Funes.

Since the original manuscript was lost, all editions of this work have been based upon five known, and variant, copies. Of these editions, that by Paul Groussac (1914) has been highly regarded. In 1943 the well known Argentine historian Enrique de Gandía published another critical edition, and he has followed the same text, but with the adoption of modern orthography and punctuation for the convenience of the general reader, in this popular edition. Clearly printed, of comfortable size, inexpensive, edited by a competent scholar, this volume is highly useful. It should become a part of the library of every serious student of Argentine history.

Duke University.

MADALINE W. NICHOLS.

*De la tiranía de Rosas a la libertad. Vida del Dr. Adeodato de Gondra.*  
By LUIS ROQUE GONDRA. [Biblioteca de escritores argentinos, Vol. 19.] (Buenos Aires: Editorial Claridad S. A., 1944. Pp. 300. Paper. \$4.00 m/arg.)

The author, in this volume, has deserted the field of economics to write the biography of his grandfather, Dr. Adeodato de Gondra. The