

floods, and industry connected with the river, its tributaries, and basin. A man of wide experience with a long and first-hand acquaintance with the river, Mr. Gómez has written much of value to the history of Colombia. What the historian actually uses will have to be extracted (unfortunately without the help of an index). What the historian can derive from a complete reading is the extent to which the water of the Magdalena in its shallow, jungle-lined bed has sustained the standard of life of the remote interior.

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Los Paúl en América. Remembranzas de familia (bosquejos biográficos).
By GUILLERMO VARGAS PAÚL. (Bogotá: Editorial Minerva, Ltda., 1945. Pp. 237. Paper.)

This is an uncritical and laudatory account of the careers of the most outstanding members of a family whose progenitors arrived in Venezuela in 1751 and one of whom settled in Colombia shortly after 1820. Of the three discussed most fully, one was a leader in the independence movement, another an archbishop at Bogotá, and a third a prominent politician during the era of Rafael Núñez. The volume contains some documents and a family genealogy; it is based to a considerable extent upon the reminiscences of the author's blind mother, for whom, in the main, it appears to have been written. It is not history, but it is useful raw material for the historian and it is an interesting and on the whole a rather pleasing exhibition of family pride, a factor never to be forgotten if one is fully to understand Latin-American civilization, which still retains a good deal of the patriarchal. The author is a conservative, like nearly all of the Paúls.

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Documentos relacionados con la renuncia del presidente López y el orden público. [Presidencia de la República de Colombia.] (Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional, 1945. Pp. 443. Paper.)

This collection of documents sheds some additional light on a very disturbed period in recent Colombian history. By combining this volume with the previously published *Consejos de guerra verbales* (the trials and sentences of those involved in the abortive military uprising of July 10-12, 1944) one can get a fairly clear picture of some of the major political currents underlying recent disturbances in the republic. Unfortunately for the investigator, documents in the present volume, as with most government publications of this type, do not present a true or

thorough picture of Colombia's recent political and military tribulations. Many of the documents are routine announcements, decrees, or communiques, helpful mainly in showing the chronology of events. Quite naturally the result is a skeleton, and not a complete one at that. Only a person otherwise well informed on recent Colombian events could utilize these documents with desirable objectivity, for the volume is clearly designed to put the López administration and the Liberal Party in the most favorable light.

The documents cover the period November 16, 1943, to July 26, 1945, according to the title page; they begin with President López's petition to the Senate for permission to leave the country (because of his wife's health), November 16, 1943, and end with a statement by the House of Representatives (August 2, 1945) expressing regret at the López resignation. The arrangement is chronological and there is an index of titles. The López speeches during the tour which culminated in his kidnaping by Colonel Gil, at Pasto on July 10, 1944, are followed by a detailed account, by López himself, of his captivity. The documents concerning this disturbance, plus the López messages on the cause of his resignation, are the most interesting and useful of the collection.

The printing is well done and typographical errors are almost nonexistent. Perhaps the outstanding contribution of this collection (probably not intentional) is the convincing portrayal of growing confusion in Liberal ranks during these months, a confusion which paved the way for Conservative victory in the recent election. Some of the López phrases show real disillusionment at failure to understand the political unrest which characterized the last two years of his regime.

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Colección de cédulas reales dirigidas a la Audiencia de Quito. De mil seiscientos año a mil seiscientos sesenta anos. Vol. XXI. Prólogo de J. JIJÓN Y CAAMAÑO. Versión de JORGE A. GARCÉS G. [Publicaciones del Archivo Municipal.] (Quito: Imprenta Municipal, 1946. Pp. vii, 726. Frontispiece. Paper.)

Here is the twenty-first volume of its archives published by the municipality of Quito in celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of its founding. This volume is a continuation of an earlier collection comprising the *reales cédulas*, or edicts, issued by the crown to the audiencia between the years 1538 and 1600. Inasmuch as some of the cédulas in the volume under review are to be found in the *Recopilación de las leyes de . . . las Indias*, it has perhaps less general value and in-