

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-

terest than the archival publication of the *libros de cabildo*. Something may be said, however, in justification for the present undertaking. The edicts are presented herewith in entirety with the reasons for their issuance, while in the Laws of the Indies one finds only a brief statement of the laws themselves. Hence students of this period may glean from these cédulas a good deal of information concerning political, social, and economic conditions prevailing in the colonies at the time.

These orders from the crown to the Audiencia of Quito cover a variety of subjects. A large number deal with matters relating to the *real patronato*, such as the nomination of officials, establishment of religious houses, collection of tithes, etc. They are evidence of how closely the crown adhered to its prerogative of religious as well as political control in the Indies. There are numerous references to fiscal questions. Needing additional revenue to carry out their policies in Europe, the Spanish monarchs in the seventeenth century sought to increase their income from America. Special levies and contributions were imposed upon the colonists from time to time and orders were given to the audiencia to ensure the honest collection of taxes. Occasionally, as this collection reveals, these demands led to formal protests by the municipal officials. In one instance, a procurator general of Quito, who had the temerity to speak out against a levy, was peremptorily imprisoned by command of the audiencia. Protection of the Indians from exploitation by the colonists was also a concern of the Spanish rulers, who at the same time were not unmindful of the natives' need for religious instruction. Jurisdictional disputes between the audiencia and the viceroy requiring intervention of the crown sometimes occurred. A scarcity of cédulas relating to the functioning of municipal government might be taken as partial proof of the decline of this branch of colonial administration in the seventeenth century. The dominance of royal representatives in the municipal *cabildo* is illustrated by the election of officials of the Real Hacienda as *alcaldes ordinarios*. Although this practice was frowned upon by the Spanish government as an interference with the rights of the *cabildo*, it nevertheless occurred at different times.

The paleographer and archivist, Sr. Jorge A. Garcés G., is to be commended for the careful performance of the difficult task of deciphering and transcribing these manuscripts in the municipal archives. The reviewer earnestly hopes that more volumes from this rich source of colonial history will be forthcoming and that other Spanish-American cities whose archives have not yet been published will follow the praiseworthy example of Quito.

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