

supported diligent and energetic subordinates. Apparently believing in liberal economic ideas, he urged his superiors to wipe out monopolistic and clandestine trade, and, in a singular memorial to the king, he recommended for Misiones military and political independence from the tutelage of Buenos Aires and Paraguay. He concerned himself with the reconstruction of decaying government buildings, with the machinations of Spanish intruders, and with all manner of administrative abuses.

In scores of comprehensive official reports, Liniers related his findings to the viceroy. These he laboriously dictated to clerks with inadequate knowledge of the Spanish language and with little preparation for their assignment. When clear exposition did not carry his point, he resorted to expressive practical examples, to energetic arguments, or even to strong emotional appeals. When the viceregal response was utter indifference—as it usually was—he showed no consideration or respect for the administrative hierarchy. Long before the English invasions, Liniers had learned to know “the small bureaucratic world of Buenos Aires.”

In apparent respect for Paul Groussac, Dr. González insists that he was not guided by the “proposition of formulating a special atmosphere of vindication of Liniers,” nor does he propose his rehabilitation. But the author clearly feels that Liniers, from 1806 to 1810, revealed characteristics distinct from those he manifested during his administration of the Misiones villages and that any scholar who attempts a new evaluation of the viceroy’s personality should use his Misiones career as the starting point.

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David Curtis DeForest and the Revolution of Buenos Aires. By BENJAMIN KEEN. [Yale Historical Publications, Miscellany, XLVI.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1947. Pp. 186. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

This biography of David Curtis DeForest provides us with fresh evidence of the infiltration of North American ideology into revolutionary La Plata. It shows how colorful, bold, and not too scrupulous merchants and sailors took advantage of progressive Spanish disintegration to promote independence of La Plata while lining their pockets with freedom’s gold. Dr. Keen emphasizes how close were both the regular and the irregular contacts between the United States and the revolutionary colonies. His greatest contribution to our knowledge has come from a perusal of DeForest’s private letter books, which retail his

activities as smuggler, war profiteer, and secret agent for privateers. The latter portions of the study, which trace the diplomatic interchange between Secretary of State John Quincy Adams and DeForest, are drawn from the archival material largely reproduced in William R. Manning's notable collection. Students familiar with Adams' successful attempts to throw Clay from his "great South American high horse" will find the tale well retold as it is related to La Plata, but there is little new about these concluding chapters.

David Curtis DeForest, a Connecticut Yankee who prospered mightily in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, knew no idealism save the chase of the Almighty Dollar, and in this race he cleared all hurdles in championship style. Money he loved as some men love women. His quest he called an Odyssey and his Penelope a winsome stack of fifty or even thirty thousand dollars. He could conceive of no better proof of friendship for a comrade than "to place you where you can make a fortune rapidly." In fact, the index might well carry another heading: "MONEY, love of." We would find many citations.

As a speculator in merchandise along the smuggling lanes of Brazil and Argentina, DeForest made his pile right handsomely, but great financial success in the far South never disturbed his loyalty to his native land. He accepted an appointment as consul-general from La Plata to the United States in order to provide an official status for himself and to assure a safer passage for his treasures as he escorted his "Penelope" homeward. Yet he was willing to serve Buenos Aires, a city he seems to have loved with a tertiary sort of passion. At New Haven the retired adventurer sought to perpetuate the memory of Buenos Aires equally with that of himself, while in Buenos Aires he left educational scholarships in his name. Later he sent to that city paintings which would illustrate the North American (Connecticut) scene. Simultaneously he loved two countries as sincerely as he loved himself. Greater love he could not imagine.

For all his flagrant egotism DeForest, shrewd as any Yankee, sponsored ideas far in advance of his day. In pre-revolutionary Buenos Aires he rashly praised the liberalism of the United States and won a brief exile for his pains. Considering the Spanish economic system outmoded and repressive, he became a leader in violating its codes. In each country he sought to advance understanding of the other by commemorative services, by exhibitions of cultural materials, by promoting international scholarship exchanges. Restless, adventurous, grasping as he was, his life also

provides a remarkably complete record of this process of inter-American acquaintance and cooperation in the first great international crisis of the Americas. It mirrors the course

of the early relations between the United States and Buenos Aires from the first furtive contacts in the days of the viceroys to the formal exchange of diplomatic representatives a quarter-century later.

In a hitherto unknown degree DeForest shaped those relations.

In matters of style Dr. Keen pushes his account with zest and no little skill. Only occasionally does he nod. Twice he uses the pseudo-historical expression: "There is reason to believe. . . ." Occasionally falls into that professorial trap: the polysyllabic abyss. Sandwiched between independent clauses we find ". . . the occupation of Amelia Island had exacerbated the already inflamed peninsular sensibilities. . . ." Gristly meat. Yet it ill becomes us of the leaden pen to give undue weight to these occasional lapses. Rather, Dr. Keen is to be congratulated on his study, which so ably documents the contribution of the United States to the movement of Spanish-American emancipation.

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Los directores del correo argentino. Documentada y completa historia del correo nacional a través de la biografía de sus directores. Primer tomo: Actuación de Don Antonio Romero de Texada. Segundo tomo: Actuación de Don Melchor de Albín. By C. GALVÁN MORENO. (Buenos Aires: Talleres Gráficas de Correos y Telecomunicaciones, 1944, 1946. Pp. 387, 776. Illustrations, facsimiles, and maps. Paper.)

Celedonio Galván Moreno's office in the building which houses the Department of Mails and Telecommunications in Buenos Aires is filled with documents relating to the history of that branch of the Argentine government. The gathering and classification of those records are due largely to the initiative of Galván Moreno. He has not only brought the materials together but has studied them carefully. From his research he concludes that there is a very close correlation between the development of his country and the growth of its communications system. In these first two volumes of a projected series that is expected to include from eight to ten, the author reiterates this thesis time and again. In this reviewer's opinion he presents documents which quite adequately support his contention.

Each of the *tomos* under review is divided into two distinct parts. In the first section of each volume, the author, with due regard for necessary background, narrates the administrative development of the postal department as exemplified by the accomplishments of its first two directors, Antonio Romero de Texada, 1794-1810, and Melchor de Albín, 1810-1821. The second sections, and the ones which the author re-