

in heavy black bars—a favorite trick of the prostituted geopolitical literature of that period in Germany. In the translation a footnote (p. 537) explains that the imperialistic expansion of the United States in Middle America has been renounced since the inauguration of the Good Neighbor Policy of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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*Historia de la cultura en la América Hispánica.* By PEDRO HENRÍQUEZ UREÑA. [Colección Tierra Firme, 28.] (Mexico City: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1947. Pp. 238. Illustrations. Paper.)

Shortly before the death of probably the most eminent authority of his time on Hispanic-American culture, the author of this book, there appeared from the Harvard University Press in 1945 his immensely valuable *Literary Currents in Hispanic America* based on the Charles Eliot Norton lectures he had given in Cambridge during the academic year 1940-1941. The latter work told a larger story than the title indicates, for it included remarks on art, music, and other aspects of cultural and intellectual history as well as giving a broad treatment of literature. The appearance of a new volume comparatively soon after the passing of the beloved scholar naturally prompts the question: is it merely a translation of the previous work or a completely new one? The answer is that it is neither one thing or the other. Rather, it is a manual offering a somewhat detailed outline of a major *opus* which its author, had he lived, could have achieved better than any of his contemporaries. In a way, this brief book underscores the irreparable loss which the study of Hispanic-American culture has suffered through the decease of a master-craftsman in the fullness of his power and maturity.

Like the *Literary Currents in Hispanic America*, this posthumously published work is divided into eight chapters whose chronological limits, however, do not coincide exactly with the periods indicated in its predecessor, and whose contents vary considerably from it. Indeed, the relatively thin volume under review attempts in smaller compass a more comprehensive treatment, including art, architecture, music, education, science, learning, etc., of both Spanish and Portuguese America. The compression of so much material results in succinct, factual data, incompletely illuminated by the author's well-known insights, and inevitably some paragraphs and pages hold little more than a bare catalogue of names and dates. The title given to this manual is, therefore, somewhat deceptive since it leads one to expect more than a skeletal treatment of the subject matter; it would, perhaps, have been wiser to prefix the words "Bosquejo de la" to the designation *Historia de la*

*cultura en la América Hispánica* bestowed upon this account. Yet its utility is unmistakably clear for, besides a panoramic review of the cultural evolution of Hispanic America, it affords in concrete form much information not readily accessible elsewhere such as the names and life spans of writers, of artists, and of the often ephemeral periodicals which reflect the intellectual and esthetic maturation of Latin America; it also indicates the contributions of that vast area to science, the list of operas and other musical works composed there, and much more useful knowledge concerning the cultural attainments of that part of the Western Hemisphere. Blurb-writers of North American publishinghouses might well imitate the restraint and accuracy of the comments of their confreres in the Fondo de Cultura Económica on the jacket of the twenty-eight volumes of the *Tierra Firme* series. They thus describe the last work of Pedro Henríquez Ureña as: "Sencillo y breve, como concebido para fines didácticos, el libro que hoy presentamos será un guía certero para quienes deseen adentrarse en el accidentado territorio de nuestra vida cultural."

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*The British Development of West Florida 1763-1769.* By CLINTON N. HOWARD. [University of California Publications in History, Volume 34.] (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1947. Pp. viii, 166. Maps, tables.)

The Lords of Trade in 1763, according to Dr. Clinton N. Howard, author of the present work, first selected the thirty-first parallel as the northern boundary of the newly created colony of West Florida. At that moment the Lords were admittedly "very ignorant" concerning this remote part of the empire, being forced to rely solely upon "Mitchell's map of North America" in arriving at their decisions. Shortly thereafter this northern boundary was shifted, when it became evident, says the writer, as a result "of later observations and surveys" that a more advanced line, to run eastward from the junction of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers and "parallel to the thirty-first," would be desirable. The discovery that there already existed "considerable settlements upon the east bank of the Mississippi" outside the boundary as first drawn and that, also, the thirty-first parallel line "excluded Mobile from the province and put it in the Indian country" was cited to justify the revision.

This is but one of several provocative points raised in Dr. Howard's book, the full implications of which the reader is left to try to determine for himself. Although the author does not so state, it may be inferred