

guay from a place of refuge to a place of captivity are familiar but here take on new meaning under the psychoanalytic approach. That a virile people did not rebel against this authoritarian rule is attributed chiefly to the childish imagination of the Guaraní, augmented by legends transplanted by the Spanish and carefully nurtured by Francia, to the beliefs of these simple people in his supernatural powers, and to the exact knowledge of every event which his consummate espionage afforded him.

Cabanelas appears to have made his investigations with care and patience. He seasoned himself by six years' residence in Paraguay, visiting the scenes of Francia's activities. His bibliography lists all sources used, confused and contradictory as he confesses he often found them. Wherever possible, he sought to confirm his data by original documents in the Archivo Nacional, but these, of course, have been severely wounded by fire, revolution, war, time, and indolence. He used foreign archives much less than did Chaves, but, considering the approach of this work, that was perhaps logical. The volume contains sixteen photographs and facsimiles, but lacks an index.

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Güemes el señor gaucho: Historia—leyenda—novela. By MANUEL M. ALBA. [Biblioteca de grandes biografías, Serie A, Vol. 11.] (Buenos Aires: Editorial Claridad, 1946. Pp. 297. Illustrations. Pasted-board.)

Admitting that this book is a fictionalized biography, written by a journalist rather than by an historian, its author disclaims any intent to write with serenity. Yet, with blithe disregard of an objective consideration or evaluation of his materials, he claims that history is only a journalist's note written by a man who has been a bit late in reaching the scene of the action. In the sense of this definition, he seems to imply that perhaps he intends that his book be regarded as history after all.

It is unfortunate that an interesting biography of one of Argentina's most fascinating historical characters should have been based upon such non-scholarly premises. This is especially true in this case, since Manuel M. Alba has performed a long-needed and highly useful task in his unusual approach to Argentine history as he turns from the point of view of the revolutionary governments of Buenos Aires to that of the northern provinces which bore the weight of all the Spanish invasions.

In this book Güemes stands sentinel, guarding the fatherland as he

blocks the invasion route from the north; he becomes a symbol of all creole excellence. His story is democratic in the historic Latin-American sense, in that common men, the gauchos, follow their "natural leader," the caudillo, in their local fight against Spanish royalist conservatives and in their defense of national independence. Again, the disruptive force of the Argentine federalist spirit is well indicated in this account of provincial suspicion of a tyrannical Buenos Aires.

Obviously, there is exaggeration in the biography, with an undue emphasis upon the influence of a hero who was historically great enough not to have needed the impertinent support of any author. In illustration of the technique employed, is this summary of the role of Güemes in national history:

Cuando Artigas ha separado ya a la Banda Oriental, cuando Francia ha apartado definitivamente el Paraguay, y Ramírez guerrea contra la capital en el litoral, y López defiende con las armas los derechos de independencia de Santa Fe, cuando Córdoba está indecisa, bastaría que Güemes dijera una sola palabra separatista para que se deshiciera toda esperanza de unidad nacional (p. 223).

Such writing awakens distrust in the whole portrayal of a hero who merited better treatment.

Other weaknesses in this book are to be found in the author's exaggerated enthusiasm for Saavedra and Alvear and his even more exaggerated rancor against Rondeau and Artigas. In fact, throughout the book there seems to be a strange antagonism for that parallel battle for liberty which was being so bravely fought in Uruguay, and even a resentment over Uruguayan aid in the common defense of the Plata at the English invasion time. When the author writes that Liniers went over to Montevideo and returned "with a handful of veterans who were to form the core of the troops of the reconquest," he gives no true picture of that historical event.

In its very partisanship, however, in its national spirit interpreted in the federalist sense with its acceptance of the local caudillo, and in its honest pride in a great local and national hero, this book is of value for an understanding of Argentine thought patterns. It may inspire someone to write a more trustworthy—unfictionalized—biography of a great American patriot.

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