

*Andrés Bello: El primer humanista de América.* By PEDRO GRASES. (Buenos Aires: Ediciones del Tridente S. A. C. e I., 1946. Pp. 152. Paper. \$4.00 m/arg.)

The title of this book by the young Spaniard, Dr. Pedro Grases, now a professor at the Instituto Pedagógico Nacional of Caracas, is entirely misleading. It is not a complete study of Bello, even as a humanist, and does not attempt to supersede the biography by Amunátegui. In fact it is a collection of three articles and a separate study previously published by the author: "La inocencia de Andrés Bello" (*Boletín de la Academia Nacional de la Historia*, Caracas, No. 107, 1944), "Don Andrés Bello y el Poema del Cid" (*Boletín de la Academia Venezolana Corresponsiente de la Española*, Caracas, No. 30, 1941), "Contribución a la bibliografía caraqueña de don Andrés Bello" (*Ibid.*, No. 40, 1943), and *La singular historia de un drama y de un soneto de Andrés Bello* (Caracas, Instituto Pedagógico Nacional, 1943).

The first article deals with the alleged treachery of Bello in 1810, an accusation which nobody believes, but which is not disproved by what Grases terms his *prueba documental*, the official roster of the personnel of the Secretaría de Estado in June, 1811, which contains Bello's name and designates him as *oficial primero, con comisión en Londres* at a salary of eight hundred pesos. The chapter on the play and the sonnet attempts to prove that Bello was the author of a lost allegorical play variously entitled *La España restaurada* and *El certamen de los patriotas*, performed in Caracas in 1808, and to show that the well-known sonnet *A la victoria de Bailén* was composed, not in 1808, but in 1809. The first point seems established. Evidence for the second, while convincing, is not conclusive. The following study is an appreciation of Bello's contribution to the scholarship of the *Cid*. The final chapter is a bibliography of works by Bello which were published in Caracas. It contains some sixty items ranging in time from 1832 to 1942. The author himself declares the list to be incomplete and recognizes the fact that in order to complete it much investigation must be made of the periodical publications in Caracas from 1810 to the present.

While the book is a disappointment in view of the expectations raised by the title, it is convenient for students of Bello to have in one volume these studies which otherwise are not easily accessible.

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