

*Descripción de las Indias.* Crónica sobre el antiguo Perú concebida y escrita entre los años 1560 a 1602 por el padre dominico fray REGINALDO DE LIZARRAGA. Estudio bio-bibliográfico sobre el autor por CARLOS A. ROMERO. Introducción y notas breves por FRANCISCO A. LOAYZA. [Los pequeños grandes libros de historia americana, Serie I, Tomo XII.] (Lima: Librería e Imprenta Domingo Miranda, 1946. Pp. 252. Illustration, facsimiles.)

As an inexpensive students' edition, this version of Lizárraga's *Descripción* is welcome. A short preface by F. A. Loayza explains that the text is from the same source as that used by C. A. Romero in the standard edition of 1907. Romero's foreword of that date is reproduced in entirety, as an "estudio bio-bibliográfico." A half-tone plate reproduces the portrait of Lizárraga in the Recoleta de Domínicos in Santiago de Chile, as well as two facsimiles of the bishop's signature. F. A. Loayza has added six footnotes to the text as used by Romero. Unfortunately this text is corrupt; it is the copy taken in 1735 from the MS in the University Library at Saragossa for González de Barcía. The copy, which Means characterized (*Biblioteca Andina*, 1928, p. 383-384) as "hurried and rather unintelligent labour," was used by Romero in 1907 at the Biblioteca Nacional in Lima: the present edition offers no improvements of textual character. It is regrettable that the Saragossa MS could not have been used. Lizárraga's comments upon pre-Conquest and colonial monuments are of such interest, that a careful textual revision would be most desirable.

GEORGE KUBLER.

Yale University.

*Monografía de Magallanes: Sesenta años de acción salesiana en el sur 1886-1946.* By LORENZO MASSA, S. S. (Punta Arenas: Escuela Tipográfica del Instituto "Don Bosco," 1945. Pp. 539. Paper.)

This bulky volume is no ordinary monograph. It is, as the compiler and sponsor declare, a memorial to the sacrificial labors of the Salesian Fathers at the forbidding southern tip of South America and a special votive offering to the Ninth National Eucharistic Congress, which was held at Punta Arenas in February, 1946. In addition, it is a combination of commentary and source book for the Province of Magallanes from the days of Magellan to the present time. As such the author mentions the first mass held in the region and touches in detail upon every recorded event in its subsequent ecclesiastical history. These events are summarized or transferred bodily from local or national manuscript sources, together with lists of principal actors—churchly,

civilian, and military—and are further made significant through appropriate biographical sketches, reports, graphs, chapter references, an analytical table of contents, and necessary errata. Each settlement and public building, each religious structure, each public or private school is mentioned. The volume is a basket of local history, painstakingly and prayerfully gathered, pressed down and running over with scholarly devotion, and bearing the necessary episcopal imprimatur.

It is also a catalogue of explorers, scientists, marauders, Protestant missionaries, and chance visitors, who in the course of four centuries have navigated the famous austral passage of the region or doubled Cape Horn and reported upon its immediate offerings or prospective developments. Its record includes the story of Chile's assertion of sovereignty over the Straits. Perhaps the most interesting record that might be dug out of it, is the pathetic tale of the rapid wasting away of the miserable natives before the advance of sheep herders and other apostles of modern industry and civilization. But one does not need to leave the United States to duplicate this story.

ISAAC J. COX.

Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas.

*José Santos Ossa: Perfiles de un conquistador: Biografía.* By JULIO H. IGLESIAS. (Santiago de Chile: Editorial Cultura, 1945. Pp. 162. Paper.)

The *antofagastino* Julio H. Iglesias—poet, novelist, and newspaper contributor—in this short work traces the life and adventures of José Santos Ossa, discoverer of the *salitre* which made the author's home town the great nitrate center of the world and which was for decades the backbone of Chilean economy. What Iglesias lacks in research technique and in comprehension of the ramifications of economic problems he makes up for with his keen understanding and appreciation of the virtues and vagaries of the north country and its people. The result is that the reader gets a vivid picture of an important phase in the conquest of the Atacama. But he misses the early economic, social, and political—both internal and external—significance of the impact of the new industry brought about by the labors of José Santos Ossa.

The volume is poorly balanced, ninety-nine pages being devoted to the life and times of the hero prior to his discovery of *salitre*. Only twenty-eight pages are given to the expedition which led to the discovery and to the subsequent formation of a company to mine and market the product. The last ten pages are devoted to the death of Santos Ossa during a sea voyage which was planned with the intention of expanding his holdings into the field of guano exploitation.