

Biogénesis de Santiago de Guayaquil. By RAFAEL EUCLIDES SILVA. (Guayaquil: Imprenta de la Universidad, 1947. Pp. 266. Paper.)

Rafael Euclides Silva, rector of the University of Guayaquil, describes his book as "pages from remote history." The work opens with a discussion of the character of the peninsular Spaniard and a description of the Huancavelica Indians native to the Guayaquil area. The author briefly sketches the history of Santiago de Guayaquil in the sixteenth century by giving an account of the principal Spaniards who settled there: Diego de Tapia, Rodrigo de Vargas, Francisco de Orellana, Diego de Olmos, Sebastián Benalcázar, the Pizarros, and others. In addition to the author's introductory explanation and a prologue by Antonio Jaén Morente, the work contains eight topical divisions and a bibliography. The conquest, founding of the city, administration, social, economic, and religious life of the district are considered.

Although it is a small book and limited in scope to the sixteenth century, this volume has charm of Spanish style and includes a useful bibliography of monographs, chronicles, and documents, both printed and in manuscript form. *Biogénesis de Santiago de Guayaquil* will interest the student of the early days of the conquest of Peru.

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Poetas completas de José Joaquín de Olmedo. Texto establecido, prólogo y notas de AURELIO ESPINOSA PÓLIT, S. I. [Biblioteca Americana, Serie de literatura moderna, poesía.] (Mexico, D. F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1947. Pp. lxxviii, 317.)

Olmedo, el poltticio. By ABEL ROMEO CASTILLO. [Publicaciones de la Universidad de Guayaquil, Ciencias histórico-sociales, No. 2.] (Guayaquil: Imp. de Universidad, 1946. Pp. 28. Paper.)

Poet and statesman, José Joaquín de Olmedo in many ways merited the epitaph:

"He was the father of his country
The idol of its people
He possessed every talent
He practiced every virtue."

Leaving the study of literature for public service, Olmedo represented Guayaquil in the 1812 Cortes of Cadiz, and as secretary of its Permanent Committee signed the decree requiring Ferdinand VII to swear observance of the constitution.

His fame as poet laureate of South American independence rests upon *La victoria de Junín*, *Canto a Bolívar* and *Al general Flores, vencedor*