

Historia de Margarita y observaciones del General Francisco Estéban Gómez. By FRANCISCO JAVIER YANES. [Biblioteca Popular Venezolana, Ediciones del Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección de Cultura.] (Caracas: Imprenta Nacional, 1948. Pp. 270. Paper.)

An edition of a history of the movement for independence in the island of Margarita written by a contemporary, and glossed by one of the principal actors in that struggle, General Francisco Estéban Gómez. Based in part on official documents published in the *gacetas* and in part on other papers available to the author, an early collector of historical materials relating to the era. Of considerable value for the story of the years 1810-1822 in the *oriente* of Venezuela.

C. C. G.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AIDS

Latin America, a Selective Guide to Publications in English. By R. A. HUMPHREYS. (London and New York: 1949. Royal Institute of International Affairs. Pp. 63. Paper. \$1.50.)

Modern Latin America in Social Science Literature, a Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Books, Pamphlets, and Periodicals in English in the Fields of Economics, Politics, and Sociology of Latin America. By RICHARD F. BEHRENDT. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1949. Pp. 152. Paper.)

The busy teacher and the inquiring layman alike should welcome the two bibliographical compilations provided for them by Robin Humphreys and by Richard Behrendt. Neither author needs introduction to professional Hispanic Americanists; each has addressed here a more general public with brief but authoritative guides to Latin-American materials in English. Professor Humphreys, recently appointed to a chair of Latin-American History at the University of London, scans the long period from discovery to the present over a wide range of topics, in a listing of about nine hundred book titles. Dr. Behrendt, Professor of International Affairs at Colgate University, restricts his efforts to narrower topical and chronological interests, with his chief concern on book and periodical publications over the past fifteen years, primarily those which deal with his major interests: economics, trade, government and politics, and sociology, with lesser attention to cultural geography, social anthropology, and history; about a thousand entries are involved.

Although inevitably some overlap between the two occurs, each tends to complement the other. Independently derived, and growing out of unlike experiences, each has a common aim: that of providing intro-

ductory surveys for the student and the serious general reader (generally ill-equipped linguistically) and to assist them in finding the further information they want. Each in its way fills a long-felt want for a handy, cheap, and intelligent selection of reference materials useful for reading lists, collateral readings, undergraduate term reports, and other needs of the non-specialist and the non-academic.

Both productions are modest individual efforts that make no pretense of being more than fatherly and guiding hands. Each grew out of earlier attempts by Humphreys and Behrendt in the same direction. In 1941 a bibliography appeared brought together by Humphreys and published for the Royal Institute; it served him as a foundation for the present one, which is fuller in detail and wider in scope. In the same year, Behrendt made public in mimeograph form, through the School of Inter-American Affairs of the University of New Mexico, a reading list that found ready response beyond that campus; considerably changed and augmented, it appears now as a printed book. Thus, both bibliographies have the practical virtue of evolving to meet general teaching situations, and of being relatively up-to-date. Fortunately, the crop of war-born effusions on Latin America through the past decade has been critically winnowed by each and some of the more regrettable monuments to opportunism, ignorance or enthusiasm are properly evaluated, by omission or trenchant comment.

Each author has virtually reviewed his own work in a preface. Humphreys notes that the limitations of a bibliography solely of works in English and omitting periodical articles are obvious—"much of the most important literature on Latin America is not written in English nor does it always appear in the form of books." However, working within his self-established boundaries, the listings provide an inclusive sweep of materials. Twelve major divisions distribute the titles among general reference works, bibliographies and guides, current literature and periodicals, general histories and comprehensive works, the land and environment; sections six through nine approach the whole area by its historical periods: ancient peoples, the empires, emancipation, and history since emancipation (subdivided into numerous topics). After listing materials touching international relations since 1830, Humphreys provides major items on the individual countries, and terminates with a sketchy note on "Imaginative literature" (European or American essays and fiction with Latin-American backgrounds or themes).

In like fashion Behrendt's introductory remarks make the necessary observation that "a bibliography limited to English-language works does not imply that an adequate knowledge of countries and peoples of Latin

America can be acquired without a working knowledge of their languages" and outlines his bases of selection. By and large, organization of the work is regional, with the exception of the first section which covers "Latin America and Inter-American relations in general"; under this rubric appear the standard general and topical references and bibliographies. In turn the Caribbean, Central-American, South-American (in general), South-American West Coast, the Platine-East Coast regions successively narrow the focus. The final, and longest division, treats individual countries, in alphabetical order. An index (not always reliable) completes the job.

In a sense, little of value can be said critically about bibliographies which are avowedly restrictive, popular and highly selective, except to wish aloud that some of one's own favorites had also gained admission. Apart from minor but regrettable typographical errors, omissions rather than sins of commission draw critical attention. In the case of the Humphreys volume a helpful inclusion among the comprehensive works and textbooks would have been Dunne and Bannon's recent synthesis. Priestley's *Coming of the White Man*, too, is an unexpected absentee. In church history, the third volume of Father Dunne on the Tarahumara should accompany citation of his earlier pair. I would have liked to see citation of Putnam's *Marvelous Journey* included under Literature and the Arts rather than half hidden in Brazil, and it would be helpful to all of us to have a complete list of the translated novels of Latin America; again, Roeder's *Judrez* actually concerns itself much more with Maximilian's adventure, and perhaps warrants double citation, once where it is (Mexico), and once earlier, "International relations" (X, 2) with the other Maximilian literature. Among travel accounts of early nineteenth-century Brazil, Koster (1816) ranks with those included. Under Mexico, it perhaps would be appropriate to balance Turner's propaganda in *Barbarous Mexico* with Bell's less frenetic *The Political Shame of Mexico*. An index would enhance the usefulness.

About the Behrendt effort, some similar and random observations are applicable. In a re-edition, the present index should be overhauled. Taking Mexico as a specific sample, it would be helpful for the layman to include Parkes's history, Ker's guide to government publications, add Redfield's *Tepoztlán* to the *Folk Culture of Yucatan*, and to cite the most recent and augmented editions of useful works like Simpson's *Many Mexicos* (and get him in the index, too!). Among more general things, omission of the magazine *Americas* seems questionable. Such are the peccant humors of the reviewer.

Together, these works underline sentiments voiced by Behrendt that

the listings show "how much remains still to be done before North American readers will have adequate and easily accessible sources of information on present conditions and problems of their neighbors to the south." He adds:

The lack of recent, comprehensive, and solid books—sometimes not only in English but in any language—is particularly conspicuous in regard to economic, social, and political aspects of such countries as Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and most of the Central American countries.

The two bibliographies do, however, make more readily accessible to students, librarians, and other interested parties a considerable corpus of valuable material, and as such are commendable.

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