

*The Last Conquistadores.* By WILLIAM COLUMBUS DAVIS. (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1950. Pp. ix, 386. End maps, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

It is somewhat surprising that this book was not sooner written, for the series of events which it treats constituted a challenge to the Monroe Doctrine and was a matter of importance in the history of the Pacific countries of South America. The author is to be commended for the fact that he has added a significant element to the mosaic of Latin-American history as constructed by scholars of the United States.

Mr. Davis interprets the Spanish adventure in the South Pacific as due, chiefly, to Spanish internal politics related to the struggle between the Union Liberal Party of General O'Donnell and the Moderate Party of General Narváez. His analysis of Spain's chaotic domestic state is a necessary and valuable prelude to his examination of the course of the intervention in America. Spain's temporary reoccupation of Santo Domingo and participation in the Mexican adventure with France and England are made parts of the general policy which led to difficulties with Peru and Chile.

In this examination of the activities of "the last conquistadores" Spain does not come off very well. The author does not, perhaps, feel animus against Spain, but he makes very clear his belief that there was no justification whatever for Spain's actions in the South Pacific. The work is so well documented that the reader will with difficulty find grounds for disagreement.

Spain proved itself quite "modern" when the government used an upside-down dictionary and called the affair a "triumph," despite the fact that the result was total failure.

The author has used archival materials in the United States, but those emanating from Spain and South America were examined only through printed primary and secondary works. The general effect is marred by the author's fondness for clichés, "foul work afoot" (p. 14), "parting of the ways" (p. 17); and by the too-frequent appearance of stilted or involved sentences, or an inexact choice of words. However, these do not detract from the historical validity of the work.

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*Archivo de don Bernardo O'Higgins.* Vols. IV-VII. Edited by RICARDO DONOSO, JAIME EYZAGUIRRE, GUILLERMO FELIÚ CRUZ, EUGENIO PEREIRA SALAS, and LUIS VALENCIA AVARIA. [Archivo Nacional de Chile.] (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Universitaria, 1948-1950. Pp. 350, 321, 368, 383. Frontispieces, indexes. Paper.)

The Archivo Nacional de Chile has recently added four more volumes to its admirable set of documents pertaining to the life and times

of Bernardo O'Higgins. The previously published volumes in the series concerned O'Higgins' early life and activities during the *Patria Vieja*, the Congress of 1811, the military campaigns of 1813 and 1814, and the beginnings of Chilean diplomacy. The volumes reviewed here stress the fact that the *Archivo de O'Higgins* is not limited merely to the personal papers of Bernardo O'Higgins but includes material on his contemporaries, on government organization, and on the diplomatic activities of the young nation.

Volume IV of the *Archivo* is essentially a continuation of Volume III, which contains some of the correspondence of Antonio José de Irisarri, Chile's fabulous diplomatic representative in Europe, to the foreign minister of the Chilean government. Volume IV concludes this correspondence, and among the interesting documents to be found in it are letters pertaining to the notorious loan Irisarri obtained abroad for his government.

The material in Volume IV will have a wide audience. Of value to the student of intellectual history is the important itemized account of the books purchased abroad by Irisarri for the National Library in Santiago. The economic historian will find very useful Irisarri's correspondence on the economic background of Chilean independence and the bases for obtaining recognition of the Chilean government. The student of personalities may find enlightenment, too, in the notes of Irisarri to his government in which he endeavors to clear himself of mishandling Chilean affairs abroad and to place the blame upon Mariano Egaña. Irisarri's acute observations on the political intrigue of the epoch will also prove useful for many investigations.

The second part of Volume IV contains the despatches of the Chilean government to Irisarri and the concluding section contains a series of letters exchanged by O'Higgins and Irisarri.

Volume V contains the correspondence of Chile's other diplomatic agent during the government of O'Higgins. These papers are the messages of Miguel Zañartu, Chile's diplomatic agent in Buenos Aires, to his government during the years 1818-1821.

The usefulness of Volume V is greatly augmented by an able sketch of Zañartu's life and his diplomatic mission, by Ricardo Donoso. This nineteen-page introduction carefully analyzes the forces at work in both countries that moulded the character of the early relations of the two governments. The article will be found especially useful by those who are not well acquainted with the conflict of personalities in the diplomatic intrigues of the early days of Chilean independence.

Volume VI concludes the correspondence of Zañartu to his government. The messages from the Ministry of Foreign Relations to Zañartu

occupy the second part of the volume. The epistolary section contains letters of Zañartu, O'Higgins, San Martín, and others; these conclude the volume.

Volume VII of the *Archivo de O'Higgins* is, in many ways, the most important one to have appeared. It contains documents relating to the preparation and organization of the army of the Andes, to the expedition that liberated Chile, and to O'Higgins as "supreme director" of the state. The impact of the personality of O'Higgins on the subsequent development of Chilean nationality has too often been ignored, partly because of the lack of a systematic collation of documentary materials. The *Archivo* is an effort to supply that need out of which may eventually grow a definitive biography of O'Higgins that will lead to a better understanding of the roots of Chilean nationality. The early volumes of the *Archivo* are certainly useful in the general setting, but Volume VII is even more so. The documents in this volume present the attitudes and actions of O'Higgins in his collaboration with the great San Martín project. They also shed light upon the problem of the O'Higgins-Carrera relationship, an aspect of early Chilean national history that has been all too often clouded by nationalistic biographies. These documents, then, are indispensable to the investigator who wishes to ascertain the development of the philosophy of Bernardo O'Higgins. More than other documents of the O'Higgins collection, these will give the foreign observer insight into the conflicts and hatreds of the times. This volume will be essential reading for the prospective English biographer of O'Higgins. The introduction and bibliography prepared by Guillermo Feliú Cruz add material for an understanding of this period.

Each of the four volumes of the *Archivo* contains an index of documents and of names cited. The index of documents includes a brief description of the subject matter of each document. The colored frontispieces and reproductions of early printed proclamations augment the value of the work.

As previously pointed out, the series includes material on many aspects of early Chilean revolutionary history. The decision of the *comisión directora* of the *Archivo* to interpret their task in this broad sense seems unquestionably wise and greatly enhances the value of the collection. The *Archivo de O'Higgins* undoubtedly will occupy a prominent place alongside the *Boletín de las leyes*, the *Sesiones de los cuerpos legislativos*, and the *Colección de historiadores y de documentos relativos a la independencia nacional* as one of the chief historical sources for the study of the Chilean struggle for independence. Its publication marks a significant step in Chilean historiography.

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