

The *Selección* contains a helpful index indicating the most important contents of each document. Each document is copied with its peculiarities of writing and spelling, and explanations are given when necessary, as well as information about the size, state of preservation, and number of each document. Purposely, no attempt has been made to provide critical notes or to evaluate the documents since they were published primarily for investigators. The director of the museum, Dr. José Luis Trenti Rocamora, and his staff should be congratulated on an excellent job of bringing to light the documents under their care. Those interested in Argentine history will look forward to the appearance of the remaining volumes to be published under their direction.

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The First Military Escort on the Santa Fe Trail, 1829: From the Journal and Reports of Major Bennet Riley and Lieutenant Philip St. George Cooke. By OTIS E. YOUNG. [American Trails Series, VII.] (Glendale, California: The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1952. Pp. 210. \$7.50.)

The commerce between Missouri and Santa Fe which began in 1821 was reputedly carried on without loss of life until the return journey of 1828, when two traders, indiscreetly indulging in a secluded siesta, offered a temptation which no Indian could resist. Their grieving companions, in retaliation, shot down all but one of the next party of Indians who approached. The fat was in the fire, and before the traders reached Missouri they had lost another man and over a thousand horses and mules. Alarmed at this threat to their profitable trade, they called on the recently elected "frontier president" for a military escort, and four companies of regulars, under the command of a veteran of the War of 1812, Brevet Major Bennet Riley, were assigned to accompany the 1829 caravan. The value of this escort, however, was somewhat impaired by two circumstances; although the deaths of 1828 had all occurred on Mexican soil, the troops were to escort the caravan only to the boundary; and, since the United States army possessed no cavalry, only infantry was available to cope with the light-horsemen of the plains, although this detachment was also equipped with a six-pounder. The available funds, moreover, were so limited that oxen, which had never before been employed on the high plains, were purchased as draft animals instead of the more expensive mules.

Caravan and escort had hardly separated at the Upper Arkansas crossing before the Kiowa attacked and Major Riley had to rush to the rescue, boundary or no boundary; the escort, however, then returned to its base near Chouteau's Island where it encamped for nearly three

months, awaiting the return of the caravan, hunting buffalo, and losing four men in encounters which clearly revealed the ineffectiveness of muskets, and even rifles, in the hands of unmounted men against the savage cavalry; the six-pounder accounted for most of the casualties.

When the returning caravan rejoined Major Riley, the traders reported that after separating from him they had been harried by the hostiles for forty days, and on their return, despite a large Mexican escort, had had to beat off a serious attack, in which their Pueblo allies had distinguished themselves. After an exchange of courtesies between the Mexican and the American officers, caravan and escort proceeded without incident to the settlements.

The expedition, as the author points out, demonstrated that oxen were not only cheaper than mules but also did better on the plains, and that infantry were powerless to deal effectively with well-mounted Indians; the wagons of the next caravan for Santa Fe were drawn by oxen, and in 1833 a dragoon regiment was authorized. The author does not, however, appropriately round off his account by stating, even very briefly, whether or not military escorts were continued.

The misfortunes of the 1828 return-caravan and the experiences and results of the 1829 escort have long been known, but the sources have been scattered, out of print, or otherwise not easily accessible. This account of the 1829 expedition is based primarily on the official report and the journal of the expedition, the latter available only in manuscript, and on *Scenes and Adventures in the Army* (1856; 1859) by Lieutenant Philip St. George Cooke who, the author believes, also wrote the journal and report. The author has well accomplished his objective of synthesizing "all of the available source material into one unified study," in language usually clear although sometimes slightly awkward and ungrammatical.

The bibliographical division of "Source Materials" into "Printed Documents and Books" and "Diaries and Reminiscences, Journals, Letters, and Reports" is of questionable utility; a number of the "Letters, . . . Reports," etc., are also "Printed Documents" and the "Printed Documents and Books" include a variety of "Reminiscences, Journals," etc. The printed versions of Major Riley's *Report*, although mentioned in footnotes 312 and 313, are not included in the bibliography. The most used source is footnoted as *Riley's Journal*, but appears in the bibliography only under the name of Lieutenant Cooke. These and other obscurities, inconsistencies, and examples of dubious form do not, however, seriously interfere with the reader's use of a comparatively small volume.

The name of the publisher is sufficient warrant that this volume is a handsome—and expensive—specimen of bookmaking. Its somewhat

narrow appeal and consequent high price will probably limit its circulation to libraries and scholars with an especially strong interest in the early Southwest; to such, however, it will be indispensable.

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BRIEF MENTION

Pan Americanism and Democracy. By LUIS QUINTANILLA. [Inter-American Monographs, No. 1.] (Boston: Boston University Press, 1952. Pp. 53. Paper.) A forthright exposition of the difficult problems involved in harmonizing the principle of non-intervention with the professions of democratic faith in the Inter-American regional system. The author strongly opposes any attempt to use official O. A. S. machinery in support of democracy within the member states.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AIDS

Calendar of the Manuel E. Gondra Manuscript Collection, University of Texas Library. By CARLOS EDUARDO CASTAÑEDA and JACK AUTREY DABBS. (Mexico City: Editorial Jus, 1952. Pp. 467. Index. Paper. \$6.00.)

The late Prof. Clyde L. Grose of Northwestern University once remarked that every historian should do something to increase the research tools available to scholars. The compilers of this *Calendar* have fulfilled that recommendation in a highly commendable manner.

When acquired by the University of Texas in 1939, the Gondra Collection contained "7,283 printed books, 2,633 pamphlets, and over 20,000 pages of manuscript sources, besides 270 maps, some printed, most of them original." The importance of this material for the study of South-American colonial history and of the national period in Paraguay is quite evident. The collection may be, as the editor remarks, "an unused fountain," but the sources hardly fall into that category since many of the manuscripts have been published and a large portion of them are modern copies from the Archivo General de Indias. Gondra's motives in making the collection must have been varied, but it should be noted that Paraguayan scholars for more than a half century believed that they were obligated to contribute something to the defense of their country's interest in the Chaco Boreal. Gondra, because of official positions he held, insisted on familiarizing himself as thoroughly as possible with historical sources in order that he might better defend the Paraguayan interest.

The documents are calendared in five groups by centuries from the sixteenth to the twentieth. Mere quantity is a poor criterion of importance, but it may be observed that there are 335 entries for the sixteenth century, 534 for the seventeenth, 1,305 for the eighteenth, 615