
This is a new transcription of a very valuable crónica of the conquest of present-day Colombia and parts of Venezuela. The original work was probably made up of four partes (the fourth is lost) each of which contained seven noticias of approximately twenty-five chapters each. The edition under consideration omits the entire first parte—over 200 chapters—which were contained in the first (Cuenca, Spain, 1627) edition of the first parte and later incorporated into the second edition of the first parte published in five volumes (Bogotá, 1882-1892) by Medardo Rivas and based upon the Bogotá originals and which also contained the other two partes. Also lacking in the new edition are a part of chapter 28 and all of chapters 27 and 28 of the seventh noticia of the second parte, also missing in the Rivas edition. These chapters were copied in Madrid in 1908 by Diego Mendoza, from a manuscript copy of the Noticias located in the Biblioteca de la Real Academia de Historia. They were published in the Boletín de historia y antiquedades (Bogotá, Imprenta Nacional, Año VI, no. 67, pp. 415-423). Friar Arcila Robledo’s study is useful and presents new facts of the life of Fray Pedro. Besides the serious omissions noted above, the new edition is without explanatory notes, or an adequate index, and contains many errors in transcription. The Medardo Rivas edition is still the best of this work.

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A reprint of the first complete edition (Biblioteca Popular de Cultura, 53, Bogotá, 1944) of the brilliant essays written circa 1790, which rank with the works of Humboldt and Caldas as sources for the study of the economy and statistics of the New Granadan viceroyalty at the end of the colonial regime.

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In a seventy page explication du texte, the author seeks to support by typographical analysis and historical argument the claim of his title. Opinion as to that claim, which has not been generally accepted as valid, may be gained from the statement as to his methods of procedure: "Como la obra carecese de indicaciones tipográficas que atestiguen su estampación en Méjico, y nuestra convicción emana solamente del conocimiento y práctica visual que tenemos adquirida, quizá refrendada por una intuición que nunca nos ha engañado...

THOMAS F. MCGANN
Harvard University

Reflexiones histórico-físico naturales, médico quirúrgicas: Prácticos y especulativos entretenimientos acerca de la vida, usos, costumbres, alimentos,