

scholarship, to recreate a representative cross-section of life in Mexico in the sixteenth century. Previously concerned with the men of the conquest in *La ruta de Hernán Cortes* (Mexico City, 1950) Benítez now focuses his attention on their sons, the tormented criollos.

The author correlates the impact of the sixteenth century on modern Mexico with the currently popular psychological case study of the Mexican soul. Psychologically speaking, the criollo was the first Mexican. He was a step-child in his own country, much as Mexicans have felt themselves down to the present. Only a change from the conditions which bred the sixteenth-century criollo will usher out the anachronous criollo mentality from Mexican life. According to Benítez, the change is in view.

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#### REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

*Bolívar, libertador y estadista.* By ANGEL FRANCISCO BRICE. Caracas, 1953. Universidad de Zulia. Illustrations. Appendix. Pp. 367.

Brings together three essays, the last hitherto unpublished: "El Bolívar de Marx, ampliado por Madariaga"; "Bolívar, libertador del Perú"; and "Bolívar, símbolo de la solidaridad americana." (J. F.)

*Boussingault: juicio crítico del eminente agrónomo del siglo XIX, su viaje a la Gran Colombia y sus relaciones con El Libertador y Manuelita Sáenz.* By CARLOS EUGENIO CHARDON. Ciudad Trujillo, 1953. Montalvo. Illustrations. Pp. 109.

Boussingault departed from Europe in 1822 with the blessings of Humboldt and an optimistic contract drawn by Zea. During ten years he was a realistic observer of human as well as physical aspects of Gran Colombia. The author traces his subject's travels, scientific work, and opinions concerning the most famous couple of the region, drawing upon the French scientist's

own published works, to which this monograph should be a pleasant introduction.

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*La casa natal del Libertador.* By VICENTE LECUNA. Caracas, 1954. Imprenta Nacional. Publicación de la Sociedad Bolivariana de Venezuela. Illustrations. Pp. 106. Paper.

The house where Simón Bolívar was born is a national shrine of Venezuela. The late Vicente Lecuna, in his introduction to *La casa natal del Libertador*, has briefly told the story of the house and related the steps taken to restore it and make it available to visitors interested in the Liberator. Information is given regarding the objects obtained to furnish it as nearly as possible in the style of Bolívar's time and with respect to the painting of the Venezuelan artist, Tito Salas, relating to the life and activities of Bolívar. The address of the Rev. Carlos Borges, at the formal dedication of the shrine, is also included.

There is a brief description of the archive which has been assembled in the Casa, consisting of papers of Bolívar and related materials. Each of the 206 volumes has an indication of the content, which serves to reveal the richness of the collection. It may be added that Dr. Lecuna was largely responsible for the securing of these records for the Casa. There is also a list of the 225 objects and paintings which comprise the furnishings of the house. The seventy-eight full page illustrations consist of reproductions of the portraits and miniatures of members of Bolívar's family, the paintings of Tito Salas, and views of the Casa and its furnishings.

The Sociedad Bolivariana is to be congratulated on the publication of this informative monumental volume which will serve as a memorial to the dedication and achievement in Bolivarian studies of Dr. Lecuna, a devoted student and ardent admirer of the Liberator.

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