

This volume is a reprint of Lecuna's previous publication which appeared in Caracas in 1948, and which, according to the Director of the Academia Nacional de la Historia, aroused so vivid an interest in Latin American circles that the first and second editions were soon exhausted. The book, in Lecuna's characteristically unmitigating fashion, expresses the author's well-known point of view in regard to the problems connected with the interpretation of the Conference of Guayaquil. Although no new argument has been presented, every historian interested in the Independence movement will be grateful to have Lecuna's important contributions, however controversial they may be, readily available.

GERHARD MASUR

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These volumes published by the Sociedad Bolivariana de Venezuela should be of interest to the historian, the historian of education, and the political scientist, as well as to those interested in the intellectual formation of Bolívar. Simón Rodríguez (1771-1854) was one of Bolívar's teachers and this edition appears to commemorate the centenary of his death. The prologue is a biographical study without footnotes or bibliography; the bibliographical study brings together in a small space almost all that is known of his work, though it lists almost nothing that has been written about him. This study continues the high standards that Professor Grases has set for himself in the past. Among the works that should be of interest are: Reflexiones sobre los defectos que violan la escuela de primeras letras de Caracas y medio de lograr su reforma por un nuevo establecimiento (1794) and the several editions of Sociedades americanas en 1828. These appear in the first volume. The second volume contains other political and educational writings. Previously published material appears in facsimile; several pieces are reproduced from the original manuscripts for the first time. Late in 1954 there will appear a third volume to the Escritos. This volume will contain hitherto unpublished material as well as his translation of Chateaubriand's Atala, which appeared in Paris in 1801 and which has never been reprinted.

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This is a collection of speeches by various Mexican (and one Venezuelan, Andrés Eloy Blanco) intellectuals celebrating the 200th anniversary of Miguel Hidalgo's birth. The majority of the addresses are patriotic eulogies, some only two pages in length. Modern contemporary thought on Hidalgo is presented, but there is little of historical interest. The talk by Torres Bodet avoids glorification and ably discusses the responsibilities of man in modern society.

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