

of Vol. I were taken predominantly from material already published, the reverse is true of Vols. II-IV.

To be sure, not all of the messages now printed for the first time are of any great intrinsic importance. Many of them, especially in Vol. II (1820) and Vol. III (1821), consist merely of a line or two in which the addressee is informed that certain documents (not always specified) are being forwarded by the same mail. Yet there are others that throw important new light both on the policy and attitudes of Santander and on the general domestic scene of Gran Colombia. This observation applies above all to the correspondence of Santander with the regular Congresses of Gran Colombia, which begins to appear in Vol. IV (1822-1824), and of which very little had previously been published. Nothing escaped the meticulous attention of the Vice-President; and whether he was discoursing to Congress on the Colombian tax system or suggesting that it take measures to prevent the *sociedades patrióticas* from degenerating into "Jacobinism," his legislative messages must surely become required reading for all students of the period.

The job of editing is on the whole excellent, although it is still possible to question a few practices on such grounds as those outlined by Professor Gilmore in his earlier review, and a few technical defects can be found. It is curious to find a single letter appearing under two widely separated dates (Nos. 715, 843)—the date found on the original and that given in the *Archivo Santander*. The error of the latter is pointed out in a note, but the fact that the duplication ever occurred suggests that to correct *all* the shortcomings of that famous collection would require more than human skills and resources. Then, too, the English-speaking reader might wish that more had been done to rationalize the handling of Anglo-Saxon names: thus Forsyth, which is misspelled as Foreyth in a letter by Santander, appears inexplicably as Foreight, something else again, in the index (II, 465). But it is scarcely necessary to add that such minor defects are unlikely to lead the serious investigator far astray; nor do they detract from the debt of gratitude which is due to Dr. Cortázar and to all who have aided him in his present labor.

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*Espejo de justicia, esbozo psiquiátrico-social de Don Simón Rodríguez.*

By ARTURO GUEVARA. Caracas, 1954. Imprenta Nacional. Illustrations. Pp. 632.

Señor Guevara presents in an excellently printed and beautifully illustrated volume the career of Simón Rodríguez as a reflector and

molder of *las luces del siglo*. To his biographer, Rodríguez is a precursor of social reforms only now beginning to achieve reality, a prophet unrecognized except by a very select few in his own day, and a man forgotten since 1830 apart from his role as onetime tutor of Simón Bolívar. The author has become, moreover, a disciple of his subject. He lays bare the determinable facets of the life of Rodríguez, whose every act is justified by the character of Rodríguez—a grace the author consistently denies to others.

The life and works of Rodríguez are presented as a well-integrated trilogy. Part one is a straightforward biographical account, mainly chronological, of the life of Rodríguez to 1825. The scanty materials for this section are the fruit of wide-ranging research and have been fully exploited. The major achievements of Rodríguez, alias Samuel Robinson the vagrant *philosophe*, in this era are his contribution to the intellectual formation of Bolívar and the maturing of his ideals of social reform against a broad canvas of many nations observed and as many languages and literatures mastered.

In the second part of the work Señor Guevara makes his most important effort to reveal why and how Rodríguez functioned. This is done by means of a psychiatric examination, whose justification and techniques are based upon a wide reading in the works of European psychiatrists and psychologists, most of whose works are of recent publication. The reviewer is not competent to pass upon the adequacy of the examination. The result is plausible, inherently interesting, and very simply and clearly presented. Apparently Rodríguez was a psychotic in many and interesting ways, but not to a committable degree. The third part of the study is an analysis of the thought of Rodríguez, his effort to express it in institutional form in Bolivia in 1826 and 1827, and his failure. In some respects this part of the work is the least satisfactory. The author clearly presents to us a man of powerful intellect, austere in his lack of interest in material possessions, innocent of all spirit of self-advancement, whose lifelong goal was the elevation of the masses. Bolívar, ex-student, friend, and patron, gave him the opportunity for action by appointing him Director of Education and Economic Development in Bolivia. His goal, aided by requisite decrees from Bolívar, was equivalent to social revolution. He failed completely. Rodríguez conducted himself not as a factor and a power in government, but as an extra-governmental force self-exploded in the Andean colonial milieu, whose character was but lightly touched by the political revolution of independence. The counter-explosion blasted him out of office.

He became again the rootless, vagrant *philosophe* until the end of

his days. During this period Rodríguez becomes to his biographer the hero who stormed the Castle of Ignorance only to be overwhelmed by the forces of evil. Señor Guevara paints the scene in shades of black, buttressed by four long quotations from Juan and Ulloa's *Noticias Secretas* and by two letters written by President Sucre of Bolivia. In addition, the author classifies Rodríguez as a socialist reformer. In the absence of a definition of "socialist" as used by the author, the reviewer accepts only that Rodríguez was a social reformer, an egalitarian and humanitarian liberal who insisted on respect for life, property, and one's fellowman. The analysis of the thought of Rodríguez is episodic, largely dependent on long quotation. One feels that the author has not achieved a synthesis which forcefully and clearly sets forth the contribution of Rodríguez to the intellectual history of Spanish America.

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ROBERT L. GILMORE.

*José Rafael Revenga. La hacienda pública de Venezuela en 1828-1830.* Edited by PEDRO GRASES and MANUEL PÉREZ VILA. Introduction by AUGUSTO MIJARES. Caracas, 1953. Banco Central de Venezuela. Indexes. Pp. xxxi, 401.

The appearance of this well edited, fully indexed volume of hitherto unpublished letters and reports is a major event for anyone interested in the social, political, and economic history of Venezuela during the years the new Republic of Gran Colombia was struggling to keep alive. The attraction of these documents to the scholar is enhanced by the fact that they are part of a manuscript collection only recently arranged and made available for research, the Archivo de José Rafael Revenga, now housed in the Casa Natal del Libertador in Caracas. The 230 documents fill 359 pages. They were written by Revenga from Mérida, Barinas, San Fernando de Apure, Caracas, Curaçao, and La Guaira between Dec. 13, 1828 and Aug. 7, 1830, during which time, on instructions from Simón Bolívar, he was charged with the heavy responsibility of raising the government's revenue from stamped paper, customs, the *diezmo*, and the tobacco and aguardiente monopolies in the Departments of Zulia, Orinoco, Maturín, and Venezuela until it reached a sum sufficient to reestablish the national credit.

While Revenga formulated plans for the better arrangement of all major sources of income and even made suggestions to José Antonio Páez as to how he might reduce the cost of executive operations, his letters to officials in all parts of Venezuela, as well as his reports