

Testimonios auténticos acerca de los prodomártires del Japón. Prologue by EDUARDO ENRIQUE RÍOS. Bibliography by AGUSTIN MILLARES CARLO and JULIAN CALVO. Mexico City, 1954. Fondo Pagliai. Illustrations. Pp. cccxxxix, 357.

The Fondo Pagliai deserves to be congratulated for its ambitious and solid undertaking in publishing this rich documentary collection dealing with the martyrdom of Nagasaki on February 5, 1597. Among those crucified were St. Pedro Bautista and St. Philip of Jesus. Not all these documents are unpublished, but a substantial portion is. All are edited with that scrupulous care that we have come to expect of their editors. This spectacular event made a dramatic impression on the Catholic world of the 17th century. Its significance for us, however, lies in the new light it throws on that whole series of political-religious enterprises in the Orient that Spain conducted from her base of operations in the Philippines. Various governors of that colony were anxious to open the door of Japan to Spanish missionary activity. Spanish mendicants from the Philippines and the Portuguese Jesuits who had already established a promising mission in that land frequently worked at cross-purposes. The martyrdom of Nagasaki inaugurated a policy of ruthless suppression of Catholicism in Japan which in turn brought abruptly to an end "the Christian Century." This edition is greatly enhanced by the useful and careful bibliographical essay by Agustín Millares Carlo and Julián Calvo and the prologue of Eduardo Enrique Ríos.

JOHN L. PHELAN

The Newberry Library

Vidas de los navegantes, conquistadores y colonizadores españoles de los siglos XVI, XVII, y XVIII. Tomo III: Colonizadores y fundadores en Indias. By RICARDO MAJO FRAMIS. Madrid, 1954. Aguilar. 101 illustrations. Pp. 1373.

Ultimo volumen de una obra cuyos dos anteriores van dedicados a una

serie de estampas biográficas de 18 navegantes y 22 conquistadores, concebida para divulgación entre el gran público y sometida a un criterio estético más que científico. El autor huye de toda continuidad y cronología en la exposición de los hechos, y busca en cambio los trazos de color, el sentido y el "clima" de cada época o personaje históricos, con el mayor respeto posible a la verdad y con un desprecio absoluto hacia los historiadores científicos, que manifiesta claramente en la parte final del prólogo. Constituyen este volumen una larga serie de biografías y de estampas urbanas, sociales y culturales de las Indias en los siglos XVI al XVIII. Al final del volumen, breve cronología, por países. Indices completos.

GUILLERMO CESPEDES

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REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Las actas de independencia de América. Edited by JAVIER MALAGON. Prologue by CHARLES C. GRIFFIN. Washington, D. C., 1955. Pan American Union. Pp. xx, 144. \$5.00.

Photostats of originals or, in those cases where the location of the original is not known, contemporary copies of the Independence Acts of the American Republics. The format permits the originals to be read although, to facilitate reading, a printed copy of each is included. The preliminary notes of Dr. Malagón give the facts surrounding the creation of each document and its subsequent history. An interpretative essay by Professor Griffin entitled, "América y sus actas de independencia" completes this beautiful and useful volume. (J.P.H.)

Bolívar. By ALFONSO RUMAZO GONZALEZ. Caracas, 1955. Ediciones Edime. Bibliography. Pp. 403.

A new biography of the Liberator drawn from standard printed sources. No textual documentation. (J.F.)

Documentos históricos. Revolução de 1817. Vol. CI. 1953. Biblioteca Nacional. Divisão de Obras Raras

y Publicações. Ministério de Educação e Saúde. Indexes. Pp. vii, 302.

Those interested in national Brazil will be pleased to learn that, commencing with this volume, the Biblioteca Nacional's series of documents will be concerned with the pre-national and national eras. The present work embraces the liberal Pernambucan revolt in which many Brazilian historians see the precursor of independence and the distant forerunner of the republic.

The Pernambucan rising is best known through Oliveira Lima's edition of Muñiz Tavares' *História da revolução de Pernambuco em 1817*. With other relevant documents published elsewhere, this volume and those to follow will greatly widen our knowledge of this significant event. The 173 documents at hand range from the beginning of the revolt to its suppression and reflect both insurgent and royalist points of view. A large number concern Paraíba.

José Honório Rodrigues evaluates the revolt and discusses its bibliography in a fine short introduction. The documents have not been printed as originally written but rather in modern orthography. While this undoubtedly eliminates chaos, it does detract from the value of the material. There are a table of contents and an index of names. Attractively printed, the reviewer's copy fell apart at first reading due to poor binding.

GEORGE C. A. BOEHRER

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Expedición de Bedoya al Chaco. By EFRAIN U. BISCHOFF. Córdoba, Argentina, 1954. Ministerio de Educación de la Nación, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades, Instituto de Estudios Americanistas, Cuadernos de Historia, N° XXVII.

One of the series dating from 1941, this monograph records the preparation and conduct of an 1817 expedition from Córdoba and Santiago del Estero against the Abipones. The Archivo Histórico de Córdoba provides documents upon which the account is based.

An undramatic and unsuccessful *entrada*, the value of the article is in its presentation of an episode in the tide-like motion of war between the *fortines* and the feared Indian marauders. The author points up the enfeebling political dissension, both intra- and inter-provincial, the lack of arms and pay, and the defects of leadership.

THOMAS F. MCGANN

Harvard University

La esclavitud en Venezuela. El proceso de su abolición y las personalidades de sus decisivos propulsores: José Gregorio Monagas y Simón Planas. By R. A. RONDON MARQUEZ. Caracas, 1954. C. A. Tip. Garrido. Illustrations. Pp. 195.

The text reviews Bolívar's position on slavery, manumission legislation, and the lives of Monagas and Planas. The appendix reproduces legislative acts and others material relevant to the subject. None of the evidence or interpretations is original; the author has based his centennial commemorative work on Gil Fortoul, González, Guinán, and others.

THOMAS F. MCGANN

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Relaciones diplomáticas de Bolívar con Chile y Buenos Aires. 2 Vols. Edited by VICENTE LECUNA and ESTHER BARRET DE NAZARIS. Caracas, 1955. Imprenta Nacional. Sociedad Bolivariana de Venezuela. Illustrations. Indexes.

The Archivo del Libertador in the Casa Natal in Caracas is the source for most of the nearly 400 documents of the period 1820-27 which the famous Bolivarian scholar Vicente Lecuna so carefully arranged for publication, with the aid of Señorita de Nazaris, shortly before his death in February of 1954. The documentary basis for a study of Bolívar's diplomatic relations with Chile and Buenos Aires is made more complete by the inclusion of documents from the Archivo General of Chile. Most of the letters, laws, and memoranda in this important collection have not heretofore been published. (J.P.H.)