

Casa León y su tiempo. (Aventura de un anti-héroe). Fourth edition. By MARIO BRICEÑO-IRAGORRY. Prologue by MARIANO PICON SALAS. Caracas, Madrid, 1954. Bibliography. Pp. 266.

This scholarly chronicle is fascinating and thought-provoking. Antonio Fernández de León, unscrupulous financier and skillful master of intrigue, in rapid succession served and then betrayed his king, Miranda, Monteverde, Bolívar, Boves and Morillo—but not Páez.

In 1808 Antonio and others tried to force the Captain General in Caracas to organize a junta. The attempt was premature. All involved were confined to their comfortable homes—all except Antonio, who was sent to Spain as the ringleader. His defense there must have been good, for the king gave him the title of Marqués de Casa León. The new marqués was back in Caracas in time to be made treasurer of the first republic. Later, Miranda sent him to negotiate the capitulation with Monteverde. Was he Miranda's evil genius at this time? Within a few months Casa León was adviser to Monteverde. In 1813, when Bolívar entered Caracas in triumph, he made Casa León economic administrator. A year later, Bolívar fled and Boves entered the city. Boves appointed Casa León civil governor of Caracas. After the death of Boves, Morillo made Casa León supreme political chief of Venezuela. By 1822 Páez was in control of Venezuela. Casa León tried to ingratiate himself with the new chief but Páez, Mariño and Sam D. Forsyth wanted Casa León's rich estates. Impoverished, Casa León fled to Puerto Rico where he died in 1826.

Historians are inclined to blame arbitrary caudillos for the evils which exist in South America. They ignore the slippery Casa Leones who abet and support the caudillos.

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Chapala. By ANTONIO DE ALBA. Guadalajara, 1954. Banco Industrial de

Jalisco. Illustrations. Maps. Pp. 177. Paper.

One of the annual volumes published by the Banco Industrial de Jalisco which represents an attempt to survey in a few pages the entire history of the village of Chapala, "the most beautiful jewel of the state of Jalisco," from pre-historic times to the present. The result is a tale perhaps acceptable to one interested in local history, but a tale which is nevertheless very uneven. For instance there is almost no word on Chapala from the time of Spanish settlement to the time of independence, and very little on the 19th century. Despite its faults, however, this history of Chapala does reveal many local reflections of the major events of Mexican history, and as such represents a useful addition to our knowledge.

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Enoch H. Crowder. Soldier, Lawyer and Statesman. By DAVID A. LOCKMILLER. Columbia, 1955. The University of Missouri Studies. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 286. \$5.00.

This volume by David A. Lockmiller, with a foreword by General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service, is essentially a study career of General Enoch H. Crowder, U.S.A., whom the author terms the "father" of selective service. Whether General Crowder was serving as administrator, judge, or diplomat, the author seeks to establish him as the victor in each of his personal battles during his half century of public service—of which forty-six years were spent in uniform—including his final service as ambassador to Cuba which ended in 1927.

Before he was named ambassador to Cuba, General Crowder had several extended contacts with parts of the Spanish-speaking world. During the Spanish American War he served in the Philippines and stayed on to reorganize the courts of the Islands. Between 1906 and 1909 he served in Cuba when the United States intervened in that island's affairs. Between