

Der deutsche Beitrag zum Aufbau der Brasilianischen Nation. By KARL HEINRICH OBERACKER, JR. São Paulo, 1955, Herder Editora Livraria. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 448. Paper. \$4.00.

It is often stated, as Professor Oberacker writes in his foreword, that the Brazilian nation was formed from a mixture of Portuguese, Indians, and Negroes. This book blazes a new trail by approaching the history of Brazil from the point of view of the German contribution. Even the name "Brazil," it seems, comes from the German word *brasen*, meaning red, glowing, etc. The dye-wood was given a name of Germanic origin.

A great many people of German ancestry have played major roles in the development of Brazil. In the Northwest of Brazil the families named Lins and Hollanda were prominent in the sixteenth century, and both of these were part German. Many of the leaders of the *bandeiras* from São Paulo were part German. Many of the Brazilian states were first settled by colonists among whom Germans occupied prominent positions. The officer who first established the Brazilian army was Johann Heinrich Böhm (1708-1783). Germans were leaders in the effort to hold Brazil together as one country, and since independence have played more and more vital roles in all aspects of Brazilian life. The wife of the first Brazilian emperor (Leopoldina von Habsburg) and the mother of the second emperor were German.

This book is not propaganda of the painfully pro-German type of the 1930's. It is a sober account of the German contribution to Brazilian development. And it is an impressive record.

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Gringo Lawyer. By THOMAS W. PALMER. Gainesville, 1956. University of Florida Press. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 176. \$3.75.

Mr. Palmer's recollections cover the period from just prior to World War

I to the present. He therefore is of the generation of American businessmen and lawyers who saw the rise of nationalism south of the border and its attendant difficulties for United States-Latin American relations. On graduating from Harvard Law School in 1913 he was granted a Sheldon Fellowship, with the aid of which he went to Spain for six months to gather material for a *Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Spain*, subsequently published by the Library of Congress and still a standard reference work. His first assignment in Latin America, in 1919, was as legal adviser to the Chile Exploration Company, a mining company formed by Guggenheim Brothers. He was later with the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and in his professional capacity travelled widely throughout the hemisphere, concerned primarily with the development of petroleum resources. His reminiscences, though clearly indicating a conservative attitude in economics and politics, nevertheless are sympathetic in their tone towards the peoples and countries in which so much of his professional life was spent. His style of narration is graceful and carries the reader pleasantly through the personal triumphs and tribulations he has to record. His references to people who have contributed to the literature in English on Latin American law—Edward Schuster, Edwin Borchar, Leo S. Rowe, James Brown Scott—are of special interest to scholars in the field.

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Historia de la ciudad de Veracruz y de su ayuntamiento. By MANUEL B. TRENS. Mexico City, 1955. Illustrations. Pp. 178.

This uneven book might have been more precisely titled "Veracruz en la historia de México," for it treats municipal affairs negligibly and, instead, sweepingly relates important events in the history of Mexico which took place in Veracruz: The arrival of Cortez; the role of the city in the struggle for Mexican independence; the siege