

*Glosas y décimas de México.* Edited by VICENTE T. MENDOZA. Mexico City, 1957. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Letras Mexicanas, 32. Pp. 371. \$2.40.

Preceded by an excellent introduction which traces the history of the "décima" from Spain to Mexico, this collection of 184 glosses and "décimas" was compiled by Vicente Mendoza, an outstanding authority on Mexican folklore, from those he published in *La décima en México* (Buenos Aires, 1947) and has since collected. Thematically they include the historical, political, religious, funeral, amatory and costumbrista; chronologically they range from the sixteenth century to the present; and, socially, they are representative of both the literate and illiterate classes. Some were found in printed or manuscript form; others were recorded from oral renditions. In each case, the source is fully identified in the notes.

As a whole, these "décimas" furnish a panoramic survey from colonial days of various purposes they have served—as evidence of poetic skill in contests, as satires directed at the government and, more generally, as a simple form of entertainment. In the early nineteenth century they served as news sheets, especially for the masses, who enjoyed hearing them declaimed by the vender, or sung, accompanied by a guitar or harp. Although hastily composed, printed and sold, the "décima" gave expression to human feelings which ranged from love to hate and from the cradle to the grave.

Both currents—the erudite and the more lyric-declamatory to which the term "valona" has been given since the late eighteenth century—have contributed such linguistic variety, such popular coloring, and such typically Mexican touches to both its character and expression as to place the "décima" of today definitely in the class of folklore rather than pure literature.

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*Het Portugees van Brazilië.* By H. HOUWENS POST. Groningen, Djakarta, 1957. J. B. Wolters. Notes. Pp. 24. Paper.

This is an address (equipped with footnotes for publication) delivered on January 28, 1957, by Dr. Mr. H. Houwens Post on the occasion of his initiation as Professor of Portuguese and of Portuguese and Brazilian Literature at the University of Utrecht (the first chair of the sort to be established in the Netherlands). Against a light (and not always an entirely accurate) historical background, the lecturer examines the linguistic ingredients, character, and development of Brazilian Portuguese (as distinguished from the Portuguese of Portugal), and he briefly reviews the findings and opinions of Portuguese and Brazilian linguistic scholars as to the nature and the degree of the differences between the two kinds of Portuguese. In agreement with them he concludes that, despite variations in vocabulary, pronunciation, and style, Brazilian Portuguese is not basically a new language. The University of Utrecht is to be congratulated on establishing this chair, and on finding so qualified a national to fill it.

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*Historia de la cultura española. La baja edad media.* By ENRIQUE BAGUE Y JUAN PETIT. Barcelona, 1956. Editorial Seix y Barral. Ilustraciones. Pp. 416.

Un volumen que pretende dar una visión global, directa y en gran parte gráfica del pasado cultural español, concebida con fines divulgadores. El texto de este tomo ofrece una ojeada sobre la historia española en los siglos XIV y XV: resumen de historia externa, el sentido religioso de la vida, la fisonomía de la sociedad (la nobleza y el rey, la vida cortesana, la vida urbana y el arte gótico, la vida rural), y una idea rápida de la etapa final de la España musulmana. Las ilustraciones,