

Mocidade no Rio e primeira viagem à Europa. By GILBERTO AMADO. Rio de Janeiro, 1956. Livraria José Olympio Editora. Pp. 447. Paper.

This volume is further evidence that the memoir constitutes a substantial literary subgenre in Brazil. Along with his previous works, it also documents the formation and culture of an individual *nordestino*. Though limited to the years 1910-1915, the book reflects much about a many-faceted Brazilian: his initiation into the literary and journalistic life of Rio de Janeiro, his professorate of law in Recife, his political activities in his native Sergipe and in the capital, where he stood close to the powerful Pinheiro Machado. The significance of France in the cultural life of Brazil is suggested in the half of the volume dedicated to Amado's experiences in the foreign service. The presentation combines honesty and modesty and gaiety in a delightful blend. A novelist too, he knows how to give his account an enjoyable pace and to make the most effective use of details, especially those of sensory perception.

FRED P. ELLISON

University of Illinois

The Negro in Brazilian Literature. By RAYMOND S. SAYERS. New York, 1956. Hispanic Institute in the United States. Illustrations. Bibliography. Indexes. Pp. 240. Paper. \$4.75.

In this heavily documented work, Mr. Sayers assumes the ambitious task of describing "... the Negro as a literary theme, especially in fiction, drama, and poetry written before 1888, the year in which slavery was abolished." The study embraces not only the role of the African slave, but also that of the mulatto, free and slave alike, in society as well as in literature. The author describes the manner in which Brazilian writers—many of them mulattoes themselves—have utilized the Negro theme, and he traces chronologically the emergence and development of standard literary types such as the Heroic Slave, the Avenging Slave, and the Faithful Slave.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sayers' desire to avoid divorcing literature from society has resulted in a somewhat faulty exposition. He seeks to show how literature in Brazil has reflected the social situation with regard to the Negro, and how, eventually, changes in social conditions—the abolition of slavery, for example—have owed a great deal to the influence of literature. In so doing, however, he proceeds in a confusing manner from literature to sociology and back again, with the result that the treatment lacks the organic quality one would desire. There are few digressions; however, a paring of plot summaries and more personal reaction would have been welcome in this conscientious analysis of an important phase of Brazilian literature.

ROBERT R. ANDERSON

University of California
Berkeley

Rebellion in the Backlands. By EUCLEIDES DA CUNHA. Translated by SAMUEL PUTNAM. Chicago, 1957. University of Chicago Press. Pp. 532. \$1.95.

Paper-bound edition of *Os Sertões*, probably the first Latin American classic to be so issued in English. (L.H.)

COLOMBIA

Escritos sobre cuestiones económicas. Second edition. By MIGUEL ANTONIO CARO. Introduction by CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO. Bogotá, 1956. Publicaciones del Banco de la República. Archivo de la Economía Nacional, No. 19. Pp. xiv, 160. Paper.

A reprint of a collection of newspaper articles (1890-1891) in which the great literateur and philologist (1843-1909) advocated a "soft" money policy for Colombia. Upon his assumption of the executive power in 1892, Caro found himself faced with a super-inflated and much-counterfeited currency which caused him to espouse (in public documents of 1892 and 1894, also printed