

introduction by the author's son, Gastão Cruis.

PRESTON E. JAMES
Syracuse University

CENTRAL AMERICA

A Central American Historian. José Milla (1822-1882). By WALTER A. PAYNE. Foreword by A. CURTIS WILGUS. Gainesville, 1957. University of Florida Press. Latin American Monograph. Series 5: December 1957, No. 2. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. vi, 77. Paper.

In this biographical sketch of the Central American literary figure, José Milla (anagrammatical pen name Salome Jil), the author proposes "to present Milla objectively and dispassionately in a bio-bibliographical study, avoiding both empty praise and partisan criticism." It treats Milla's political activities, his career as a journalist, his literary productions (*costumbrista* sketches, poems, and romantic novels), and his later efforts as a serious literary historian.

Emphasis is given, although not sufficiently so to justify the title, to Milla's role in promoting historical studies as a journalist and novelist, and to his contribution to Central American historiography as official Guatemalan historian of the colonial period. The treatment is circumstantial rather than analytical. Some attempt is made to explain Milla's developing interest in history on the basis of his personal convictions, his political orientation, and his expanding opportunities and experience. His methods and the product of his historical research are described but are not critically evaluated.

WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH
Tulane University

CHILE

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957). Washington, D. C., 1958. Pan American Union. Pp. 90. Paper.

Four essays on Gabriela Mistral and a bibliography of her works are in-

cluded in this little volume. The bibliography by Norah Albanell and Nancy Mango—the most complete that has yet appeared—includes Gabriela's individual works and their translations; poems and articles by her that were published in anthologies or periodicals; and critical, biographical and bibliographical articles concerning her and her work.

In the essays preceding the bibliography, Juan Marín emphasizes the greatness of the soul of Gabriela and the ever-present moral message in her works; while Uribe Echevarría, aside from sketching her life in her native Chile up to 1922 and pointing out some of the peculiar characteristics of her poetry, mentions four studies on phases of her work that in his opinion are most significant. (These, strange to say, do not appear in the bibliographical section of the volume.) Rafael Heliodoro Valle, in a reminiscent mood, recalls events in connection with the poetess, particularly in 1922 when she was in Mexico under the auspices of José Vasconcelos, then Minister of Education; and, finally, José A. Mora dwells on the preoccupation of Gabriela for America and her problems.

Neither these essays nor the bibliography should be overlooked by any serious students for they constitute a worthy tribute to the memory of Gabriela Mistral, a gifted poetess and a woman of distinctive personality.

J. R. SPELL
University of Texas

Misión en Chile 1930-1953. By CLAUDE G. BOWERS. Translation by GUILLERMO BLANCO. Santiago, Chile, 1957. Editorial del Pacífico. Colección Rostro de Chile. Memorias, Crónicas y Documentos. Pp. 389. Paper.

El interés despertado por esta obra queda de manifiesto por las tres ediciones que han sido publicadas. El autor fué embajador de los Estados Unidos de América en Chile desde 1939 hasta 1953, durante el gobierno de tres presidentes norteamericanos y de cuatro chilenos: Pedro Aguirre Cerda, Juan

Antonio Ríos, Gabriel González Videla y Carlos Ibáñez del Campo.

Le tocó a Bowers desempeñar una difícil y delicada misión durante los años críticos de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y en circunstancias de que el país ante cuyo gobierno estaba acreditado mantenía una posición internacional susceptible de ser mal interpretada por quienes desconocieran los fundamentos en que descansaba. Con claridad y honradez el antiguo embajador expone la forma positiva en que Chile contribuyó al triunfo de los aliados y hace hincapié en el sentido hondamente democrático que guió en todo momento a los gobernantes chilenos.

Destaca Bowers el benéfico efecto que han producido en Chile los gestos amistosos de los norteamericanos y la ayuda económica y técnica que se ha prestado al pueblo chileno. Subraya especialmente las demostraciones de agradecimiento con que se ha retribuido la generosidad y desinterés del aporte de los vecinos del norte al bienestar de Chile.

Se describen en esta obra, con pintoresca fidelidad, los variados escenarios urbanos y rurales en que transcurre la multiforme existencia de los "simpáticos" chilenos. Desfilan por sus páginas una multitud de caracterizadas personalidades chilenas y quedan pintados con natural relieve los aspectos más típicos y acogedores de la vida chilena.

A pesar de los numerosos compromisos sociales y de las agotadoras obligaciones de su cargo, el autor revela haber logrado un conocimiento bastante completo de las condiciones culturales, políticas y sociales de Chile. La actitud de este diplomático norteamericano resulta, por ende, comprensiva, tolerante y justa cuando procura hacer un balance de la conducta, procedimientos políticos e idiosincrasia del pueblo chileno y de sus gobernantes.

HOMERO CASTILLO

Northwestern University

Participación del capital extranjero en la economía chilena. By ANA VUKOVIC BRAVO. Santiago, Chile, 1957.

Editorial Universitaria. Universidad de Chile. Escuela de Derecho. Bibliography. Pp. 120. Paper.

This monograph examines the role of foreign capital as a complement to domestic savings and as a determinant of the capacity to import. An introductory chapter reviews textbook principles on capital imports in underdeveloped countries. A historical recount of Chile's experience points up the fact that foreign capital since 1925 has usually reduced the capacity to import as claims for interest and amortization exceeded new investments. A chapter on legal treatment summarizes legislation for the period from 1942 through mid-1955 and includes the complete text of two major laws dealing with foreign investments in general and the copper industry in particular. The author concludes that the climate has been made more attractive for capital inflow, though to what extent it will take place remains to be seen.

C. P. BLAIR

University of Texas

COLOMBIA

Don José Manuel Groot. By GABRIEL GERALDO JARAMILLO. Bogotá, 1957. Editorial A B C. Academia Colombiana de Historia. Junta de Festejos Patrios. Bibliography. Illustrations. Pp. 154. Paper.

This is a thoughtful, well-written short volume on the author of the classic yet much-abused *Historia eclesiástica y civil de Nueva Granada*. It is not a conventional biography but rather a series of related essays—giving a quick general survey of Groot's life and then treating topically his work as educator, Catholic polemicist, journalist, *costumbrista*, historian, and painter. In so doing, Giraldo touches on a wide expanse of nineteenth-century cultural history.

While justly admiring Groot for his industry and absolute sincerity, Giraldo recognizes the Conservative and ultra-Catholic prejudices that mark his writing and have caused many Liberals to