

lem of mine ownership, application of New Spain's *Real Ordenanza de Minería* to Venezuela since 1784, juridical character of petroleum concessions, juridical character of mining and petroleum taxes, and juridical situation of the state and petroleum companies with respect to general taxes.

The author's method is to introduce each aspect with an introductory discussion of the principal issues involved. He then traces, and interprets, the evolution of Venezuelan law with respect to these issues. Finally, he ends each treatise with critical evaluations and conclusions.

The major theme of the book is defense of the nation's interests. The three principal obstacles thereto, according to the author, have been the absence, until 1943, of a unified system of petroleum legislation, the abuse of duty-exemption privileges by the concessionaires, and the difficulties in obtaining a larger share of the profits of the oil companies. The first and second problems have been resolved through bilateral agreements between the Venezuelan government and the foreign oil companies, but the third has been handled arbitrarily by the unilateral action of the State, initially by the "50-50" tax decree of 1946 and just recently by the "60-40" decree of 1958.

Whether or not one agrees with Professor González Miranda's rather nationalistic approach, one has to agree that he has produced a volume that will be received with interest by historians, lawyers, and oilmen alike.

EDWIN LIEUWEN

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND REFERENCE WORK

*Atlas van Zuid-Amerika.* By W. J. VAN BALEN. Amsterdam, Brussels, 1957. Elsevier-Uitgave. Maps. Photographs. Index to the photographs. Pp. 230. Cloth.

This is a very good, popular, descriptive work on South America. It is not,

properly speaking, an atlas, but rather a beautifully illustrated text summary of the history and economy of the South American countries. There is an introductory section on the geology, climate, and natural vegetation. The maps of these features are highly generalized, and a fourth map purporting to show the fauna includes pictures of animals on a map background. This is followed by sections on the pre-Columbian peoples, the European settlement, the historical development of the colonies, the story of the nations since independence, and the cultural development of the various countries. The larger part of the book is devoted to descriptions of the different South American countries.

The book is beautifully illustrated with new and striking photographs. The maps, however, are small-scale and highly generalized. The economic maps show the names of major crops printed over a hypsometric base—which may be satisfactory for a popular book, but for the professional geographer is inexcusably inaccurate.

PRESTON E. JAMES

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*Bibliografia del P. Miguel Batllori, S.J.* By G. M. BERTINI. Turin, 1957. Arcsal. Pp. 45.

Se publica esta bibliografía, tomada del periódico italiano *Quaderni Ibero-Americani*, con motivo del vigésimo quinto aniversario de las primeras publicaciones del P. Miguel Batllori y de la llegada a Italia de este estudio, ahora Director del Archivum Historicum S.I. y profesor a la Pontificia Universidad Gregoriana de Roma. No hay que hacer hincapié en la importancia de la obra del P. Batllori, ya que los lectores de la HAHR reconocerán sus contribuciones como lullista, vilanovista, bibliógrafo, e historiador de los valores de la cultura de los países del mediodía europeo, en general. Este hermoso manual igualmente prueba que

los italianos conservan su talento secular para las artes gráficas.

CHARLES L. EASTLACK

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*Directorio de bibliotecas de la Ciudad de México.* (*Directory of Mexico City Libraries*). Compiled by MARY D. PARSONS and ROBERTO A. GORDILLO. Mexico City, 1958. Mexico City College Press. A contribution to the VIII Mexican Book Fair. Foreword by DR. PAUL V. MURRAY. Foreword by DR. ARMANDO M. SANDOVAL. Photographs. Personnel of the libraries. Index. Pp. xix, 95. Paper. \$2.00.

The experience of the North American graduate student who spent three days last summer wandering around the Zócalo trying to locate the Archivo General de la Nación need never be repeated. With the bilingual Parsons-Gordillo directory clutched in his hand, the wanderer will have at his disposal not only the addresses of more than one hundred libraries in Mexico City, but also such assorted information as the date of establishment, hours of operation, names of librarians in charge and the availability of English-speaking personnel, number of volumes and percentages of same in various languages, number of periodicals received and special services available. This directory will serve as a complement to the *Guía de las bibliotecas en el Distrito Federal* compiled in 1954 by María Luisa Ocampo, Director of Libraries of the Department of Public Education.

The compilers, librarians at Mexico City College, have emphasized the organizational aspect of the libraries, subordinating archival depositories. While descriptions of the "type of collection" are included, these tend to be so generalized as to be of limited utility to the scholarly investigator.

STANLEY ROBERT ROSS

University of Nebraska

*Latin American Journalism Bibliography.* By MARVIN ALISKY. Mexico

City, 1958. Fondo de Publicidad Interamericana. Introduction. Pp. 59. Paper. \$1.00.

As the author says: "These are only the first words" of an introduction to mass media in Latin America. Reference material concerning such media exists, but it is hard to find. Much of it is in Spanish or Portuguese, some in books but more in anniversary editions bound into newspaper files. Important sources of information not mentioned are The Inter-American Press Association's annual volumes and the bulletins of the International Advertising Association. An important book overlooked was *Defense of Freedom* by the Editors of La Prensa published in 1952 by the John Day Company and the edition in Spanish published by Editorial Botas in Mexico City. And one should remember *Deadline Every Minute* by Joe Alex Morris, the story of the United Press Associations.

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#### NEW PERIODICALS

*Estudios Históricos. Segunda época.* Nos. 1 (July-September, 1955), 2-3 (July-September, 1957). Edited by SALVADOR REINOSO. Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. \$15.00 M.N., \$2.00 Dlls. per year. Address: Apartado Postal 1029, Guadalajara.

After a decade-long "hibernation," the semestral review *Estudios Históricos* is now appearing once again. Eight numbers comprise the first series (*primera época*), published during the period 1943-1946 under the editorship of Luis Medina Ascencio. The new series of this official organ of the Guadalajara Center of Historical Studies appears to equal or surpass the precedent set by the first series in clarity of format and in the quality of its scholarly contributions which, in the two issues under review, include *La política social de Hidalgo* by Moisés González Navarro; *El programa internacional de México en 1821* by José