

## BOOK REVIEWS

### GENERAL

*Ensaaios paulistas.* (Contribuição de "O Estado de São Paulo" às comemorações do IV centenário da cidade.) São Paulo, 1958. Editora Anhembi. Illustrations. Pp. 906. Paper.

The reviewer is relieved that he can discard his issue of *O Estado de S. Paulo* dated January 25, 1954, which commemorated the fourth centennial of São Paulo city. The essays it contained now appear in book form as *Ensaaios paulistas*. Although weighing six pounds, the new volume is far more convenient than a bulky and yellowing newspaper. Fortunately, there is historiographical as well as physical weight to the fifty-three reprinted essays, in spite of their origin as *pièces d'occasion*. Two essays are unsigned; the others are the work of forty-six writers, including such well known ones as Serafim Leite, Pierre Monbeig, Afonso Taunay, Jaime Cortesão, and Otávio Tarquínio de Sousa.

One might expect two themes to dominate the collection: the *bandeiras* and the modern economic development of São Paulo. One would be mistaken. There is only one essay on the *bandeiras*, and only three on economic aspects. Several more deal with conventional historical and religious themes. But the stress is upon intellectual, cultural, and scientific trends in the city. There are historical essays on literature, ceramics, music, art and architecture, the press, and education. There are others on the teaching and study in São Paulo through the years of history, geography, sociology, linguistics, chemistry, physics, zoology, genetics, botany, oceanography, and medicine. Excellent leads are provided for the history of science in Latin America. The work in theoretical physics that has been done in São Paulo in recent years will come as a revelation to many. Others, who may not keep up with the *Revista de História*, will be surprised at the research in ancient and medieval history at the University of São Paulo.

There is, naturally, an expository and commemorative tone to many of the essays. And there is inevitable overlapping in such a series of historical surveys. Yet the bland journalistic overview and the playful antiquarianism to which our own Sunday supplements accustom us are virtually absent from the collection. It makes both interpretative and documentary contributions to the historiography of Brazil's largest city, above all in the cultural and intellectual fields.

If one were looking for a pacemaker among the forty-six writers, a plausible choice would be Antônio Cândido, for his perceptive, documented, and well organized essays on "Aspectos sociais da literatura em São Paulo" and "Informação sôbre a sociologia em São Paulo."

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RICHARD M. MORSE

*From Community to Metropolis, A Biography of São Paulo.* By RICHARD M. MORSE. Gainesville, 1958. University of Florida Press. Charts. Illustrations. Pp. xxiii, 341. Cloth. \$7.50.

The extraordinary city of São Paulo has long attracted researchers from various disciplines. Mr. Morse has done much more than to add one more item to its bibliography. Historian and sociologist, he sets himself to describe the social evolution that, between the 1820's and today, turned a small market town into a sort of South American Chicago; more precisely, to explain how a closed society with a strong sense of community came to become a modern metropolis. His success is unquestionable; it is due to his careful sifting of printed materials, his intelligent use of documents including newspapers, and especially his direct knowledge of things and persons. One senses on many pages how skillfully he has drawn upon conversations with Paulistas of all classes.

This intimate knowledge helps him to avoid simplifying a story whose development, if it were charted, would show a steeply but irregularly ascending curve, only explainable by the play of complex factors. Attentive to economic changes, he records with equal emphasis the roles of the Faculty of Law founded in 1828, the Modern Art Week of 1922, the action of such men as Mário de Andrade, and the creation of the University in 1934. Nor does he neglect the problems—of housing, transport, public hygiene—that accompany the too rapid growth of an urban civilization.

To understand São Paulo, one must return to the 16th century to its foundations as the frontier town of Piritininga, to which Mr. Morse devotes a chapter. Piritininga was the take-off point for the *bandeirantes* as they ranged widely over a vast hinterland. I believe that São Paulo early showed one aspect of a metropolis: it radiated influence and prestige over a large territory.

The author stresses the persistence of the feeling of community in São Paulo, not, he is careful to indicate, in the sociological sense but in that of a numerically small and isolated group thinking and feeling identically. The old ways of thought have been long in disappearing. Towards 1850, when the first shops to offer European modes opened,