

*Ephemerides brasileiras*, the *Esquisse de l'histoire du Brésil* was published first as a chapter in *Le Brésil en 1889*, edited by F. J. de Santa-Anna Nery, then separately with the same title as the book, and subsequently under its present title. In revised form it also appeared in the *Grande Encyclopédie*.

Based on Rio Branco's wide acquaintance with the available printed sources, the *Esquisse* is divided into two unequal parts. The first and longest (thirteen chapters) concerns the colonial period to 1808; the second (three chapters), the years of monarchy in Brazil (1808-1888). In a simple narrative style devoid of interpretation, the Baron heavily stressed military and political topics at the expense of economic, social, and cultural themes (e.g., only two sentences in twenty-five pages on the reign of Dom Pedro II refer to economic developments). A classic for its time, the *Esquisse* is badly dated today; nevertheless readers familiar with French but not Portuguese may find it a useful résumé of some aspects of Brazil's history before 1889.

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*Historia de la filosofia en Latinoamérica*. By MANFREDO KEMPF MERCADO. Santiago, Chile, 1958. Empresa Editora Zig-Zag. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 217. Paper. \$13.00.

This is a mistitled and disappointing volume. It is mistitled because the author himself recognizes the "schematic character" of his handbook, and so must be aware that it would take more than 200 pages to write the *history* of philosophy in the twenty countries of Latin America. The volume is disappointing not, however, because its coverage is schematic—which can't be helped—but because it relies almost exclusively on secondary sources. Being a Bolivian by birth, Professor Kempff of the University of La Paz naturally plays up to work of his own countrymen. On the other hand, though he rightly commends the late José Vasconcelos of Mexico as "a robust and original thinker," he does not even

mention the system of *el monismo estético* by name, to which one must go for concrete proof of Vasconcelos's originality. Finally, the author is wise in restricting the term philosophy to its usual meaning. In contrast to another author, who begins his book on the same subject with "The Philosophical Ideas of Christopher Columbus," Sr. Kempff happily distinguishes philosophers from mariners. The only place where he possibly falters is in the inclusion of psychology under philosophy, but this only shows that in Latin America apparently the field of psychology has not yet reached the scientific stage it has elsewhere.

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*História da provincia eclesiástica de São Paulo*. By VASCO SMITH DE VASCONCELLOS. São Paulo, 1957. Saraiva. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 291. Paper.

This volume is firstly concerned with brief biographies of the prelates of the diocese, presently the archdiocese, of São Paulo, culminating with Dom Carmelo Cardinal de Vasconcelos e Mota and his four auxiliaries, and secondly with the biographies of the Ordinaries and Auxiliaries of the suffragan dioceses of the ecclesiastical province. The treatment given each is necessarily brief, varying according to the temporal or spiritual importance of the subject. Based exclusively on secondary materials, this work will be useful as a reference work to supplement the *Anuario Pontificio*.

The author prefaces the work with a general introduction. Shorter introductions precede the sections on the archdiocese and the suffragan dioceses. Lists of the "parocos das matrizes" who held their posts before the elevation of the cities into sees will also be useful. A mark of the province's and of the state's growth is shown by the fact that the archdiocese and therefore the province were created only in 1908. At that time there were four suffragan dioceses; presently there are sixteen.

One, Lins, was formerly that of Cafelandia; the see was transferred to the former city in 1950.

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*Historia de la literatura argentina.*

Tomo I. By RAFAEL ALBERTO ARRIETA. Buenos Aires, 1958. Ediciones Peuser. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. xxvii, 434. Cloth.

This work, the first volume of a new and comprehensive history of Argentine literature in course of publication, is a major contribution to the understanding of the *belles-lettres* of the River Plate. *Ediciones Peuser* have entrusted the over-all direction of this ambitious undertaking to Professor Rafael Alberto Arrieta who, in turn, has assigned the different periods and movements to widely-known specialists. Whatever the shortcomings inherent in the approach, the diversity of views generously compensates for minor flaws.

The first volume covers the period from the discovery to the triumph of the Argentine revolution. It divides into two parts which have been assigned respectively to Professors Julio Caillet-Bois and Roberto F. Giusti. The former's richly-documented survey of colonial letters consists of fifteen chapters which range from Ulrich Schmidl's *Wahrhaftige Beschreibung* to the songs inspired by the heroic resistance of the *porteños* to the British invasion in 1809. On the whole, this book-length essay offers more to the student of Argentine history or culture than to the literary scholar properly speaking.

Professor Giusti's ten vignettes of the poets of the revolution and a brief essay on the theater of the period form the second half of the book. The author, intimately familiar with the literary movements of the River Plate and of Spain, offers a painstaking analysis of the themes, language and versification of figures such as Vicente López y Planes, Esteban de Luca, Bartolomé Hidalgo and Juan Cruz Varela.

The publisher, the editor and his collaborators are to be congratulated on this magnificent volume. In the opinion

of the reviewer, it constitutes a challenge to literary historians and editorial houses in all Latin American republics.

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*Historia moderna de El Salvador.* By FRANCISCO GAVIDIA. 2nd ed. San Salvador, El Salvador, 1958. Departamento Editorial, Ministerio de Cultura. Obras Completas, I, Pp. 494. Paper.

At one time or other the Salvadoran author Francisco Gavidia (1863-1955) tried his hand at almost every kind of writing, and he is certainly better known for his poetry than for his history. Thus the present volume, which was first published in 1917-1918 and now forms the first installment of an official *Obras Completas*, is not the work of a specialist in historiography. After an introductory chapter based in considerable part on the *Popul Vuh*, it launches into the origins of independence and traces the first skirmishes to 1814. The organization is somewhat loose, and the narrative stream is repeatedly broken to introduce either documents of the period or quoted selections from other writers (including Bancroft). The greatest amount of documentary material inserted in the text consists of debates from the Spanish Cortes on such themes as American representation. Other documents, however, are key sources of information on the happenings in El Salvador, and the book as a whole furnishes a good insight into the Salvadorans' conception of their country's role as a liberal-republican spearhead in Central America during the independence era—even though the best known illustrations of that role date from the 1820s.

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*Manual de historia de Bolivia.* By HUMBERTO VAZQUEZ-MACHICADO, and JOSE DE MESA and TERESA GISBERT with the cooperation of DICK IBARRA