

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

GEORGE BOEHRER
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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.

EDWARD GLASER
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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