

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

GEORGE BOEHRER  
Georgetown University

*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  
University of Michigan

*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.

DAVID BUSHNELL  
Air Force Missile Development  
Center

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

GRASSO. La Paz, 1958. Gisbert y Cia. Pp. xxii, 453.

This is the newest Bolivian history textbook, written by eminent scholars. Some pre-Columbian chapters were written by the energetic Argentine archeologist, Ibarra Grasso. The other pre-Columbian chapters and the colonial period were done by José and Teresa de Mesa who have just returned from a Guggenheim grant in the United States. The national period was written by the late Humberto Vázquez-Machicado.

The book is divided into six parts, each of which has about four chapters. Part one deals with the pre-Columbian period. Two, three and four cover the colonial period, and the last two parts belongs to the republican period. Each chapter is subdivided into well defined sections. Practically each page has excellent pen and ink illustrations. The text is completely unbiased and is based on solid historical facts. This work is recommended for American universities which offer courses in Latin American history. It gives an adequate overall view of Bolivia.

CHARELS W. ARNADE

University of Florida

*Nuestras vías interoceánicas: Tehuantepec, Nicaragua, Panamá. A propósito del Canal de Suez.* By VICENTE SÁENZ. Mexico City, 1957. Editorial América Nueva. Colección Autores Contemporáneos, IX. Bibliography. Pp. 217. Paper. \$16.00 pesos; \$2.00 dols.

This is an historical study of some of the projects for ship canals to link the Atlantic and Pacific across Tehuantepec, Nicaragua and Panama. It is also a critical discussion of contemporary problems associated with the Panama Canal, and with plans for other waterways. Many of these issues have become accentuated since the Suez crisis of 1956;—in fact this particular volume seems to have been inspired partially by the Suez affair of the year prior to its publication. Indeed, the entire second part of the volume is

based upon a discussion of the repercussions which the Suez crisis had upon the people and government of Panama. There is a very interesting treatment of the U.S.-Panamanian points of contention over the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. There is also an examination of the history of other canal projects proposed as alternatives to the existing Isthmian waterway, both in the present time and in years past.

The author insists that the issue of sovereignty for any new canal, whether in Mexico or Central America, probably will have to be resolved completely in favor of the Latin American state through whose soil the United States might finance and furnish technical assistance for a new canal to link the oceans. This appears to be the *sine qua non* to any undertaking for an interoceanic waterway in the Western Hemisphere. The issue of sovereignty over the existing Panama Canal Zone is far from settled because of the indecisive wording of the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty. This question hangs like an ominous shadow over the discussion of any new project of canal building in the Americas.

One of the best features of the book is its recital of various canal schemes planned and discussed for the Tehuantepec area. There has been some neglect in the past of this very interesting phase of U.S.-Mexican relations.

The final portion of the book carries the text of the principal treaties dealing with the subject of interoceanic canals across American territory, including the official text of the Bidlack-Mallarino, Clayton-Bulwer, Hay-Pauncefote, Hay-Bunau-Varilla, Bryan-Chamorro, Hull-Alfaro, Hull-Castillo Najera and Fabrega-Chapin treaties. There is also included the text of the Constantinople Convention of 1888.

LAWRENCE EALY

Hobart College  
William Smith College

*Prescott and His Publishers.* By C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1959. Southern Illinois University Press.