

tion of *Hernando de Soto*. Edited by THEODORE H. LEWIS. *The Narrative of the Expedition of Coronado by Pedro de Castañeda*. Edited by FREDERICK W. HODGE. New York, repr. 1959, c. 1907. Barnes & Noble. Original Narratives of Early American History. Edited by J. FRANKLIN JAMESON. Index. Pp. xiii, 413. \$5.75.

*Spanish Exploration in the Southwest, 1542-1706*. Edited by HERBERT EUGENE BOLTON. New York, repr. 1959, c. 1908. Barnes & Noble. Original Narratives of Early American History. Edited by J. FRANKLIN JAMESON. Index. Pp. x, 486. \$5.75.

The comparative scarcity and especially the worn condition of the original copies of this great series make the reappearance of these two volumes most welcome. Unfortunately, they are merely new printings, and therefore they do not embrace in their introductions and notes the valuable results of the research which has been done on their subject during the last half-century. Furthermore, and much less pardonable, the maps of the original editions are not reproduced.

The first-named volume contains Cabeza de Vaca's own narrative of his North American peregrinations; the Gentleman of Elvas version of the De Soto exploration; and Pedro de Castañeda's report on the Coronado expedition. The second consists of the *relaciones* of Cabrillo, Ferrello, Vizcaíno, and Asensión on the Pacific coast; of Rodríguez, Espejo, and Oñate in New Mexico; of Bosque, Larios, Mendoza, López, De León, and Massanet in Texas; and of Kino in Sonora and Arizona.

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*The Spanish Settlements within the Present Limits of the United States, 1513-1561*. By WOODBURY LOWERY. New York, 1959. Russell & Russell. Illustrations. Appendices. Map. Index. Pp. xiii, 515. \$13.50 for set.

*The Spanish Settlements within the Present Limits of the United States, Florida, 1562-1574*. By WOODBURY LOWERY. New York, 1959. Russell & Russell. Illustrations. Appendices. Index. Pp. xxi, 500. \$13.50 for set.

The re-issuance of Woodbury Lowery's minor classics makes more accessible to several generations of students the scholarship of a wealthy eastern lawyer who employed the last years of his life (1853-1906) in laying these cornerstones of Spanish American colonial historiography.

Well-connected (among others, to the Duke of Arcos), Lowery made the personal use of European archives which was forbidden to Prescott. His work is a worthy complement to that of his great predecessor, in range of research, in attention to detail, and in its objectivity and dignity of style.

Lowery's first volume is divided into three books, of which the first (116 pp.) deals with the physical and human aspects of what were to become the southern and southwestern regions of the United States, and with the condition of Spain at the close of the fifteenth century and the colonization of Hispaniola. Book II (254 pp.) follows "Discoverers and Adelantados" from the Carolinas to California. Book III (46 pp.) describes "The Missions." Appendices occupy fifty pages.

The second study describes the French colony in Florida in a book-sized 204 pp., the Spanish colony there (126 pp.), and the Guale and Virginia missions and the last visit of Menéndez de Avilés to Florida in the third section of 47 pp. There is a seventy-nine page appendix.

Not all of this extensive historical diet is as fresh as when it was first prepared. Later monographs have taken a toll, especially in the ethnographic and geographic portions. For example, Lowery follows Bandelier's identification of the route of Cabeza de Vaca, and Bandelier was probably wrong by the width of the state of Texas. There is no bibliography, and neither type nor maps have improved with age. Yet the books are histori-

ographic landmarks, and they are as welcome as old friends.

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*The Spanish Struggle for Justice in the Conquest of America.* By LEWIS HANKE. Philadelphia, 1959. University of Pennsylvania Press. Illustration. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 217. Cloth. \$5.00.

Reprint of the 1949 edition.

#### REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

*La actividad política del reino de Chile entre 1806 y 1810.* By NESTOR MEZA VILLALOBOS. Santiago, 1956. Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico-Culturales. Introduction. Appendix. Pp. 160. Paper.

In spite of the attention devoted by historians to the Revolutionary era in Spanish America, the period of transition when the disintegrating Spanish regime existed side by side with the incipient independence movements is still shadowy, at any rate for some regions of the empire. The external events are familiar enough—the actions of governors, movements of troops, activities of cabildos—but we are still uncertain about motives and intentions, and we still lack precise answers to many questions, including the question what were the social and economic interests behind the attitudes of Spaniards and creoles and behind the positions which they adopted. Only by detailed studies like the present one can the picture be filled in. Sr. Meza Villalobos has made an original and informative contribution to the study of the independence movement in Chile in the years when Spanish officials were vainly endeavouring to maintain an authority which appeared to have no source. Avoiding theories and ideologies, he has gone to the archives and his study is based, among other things, on good use of material from the Archive of the Indies, Seville. He

analyses the policies of royal officials and the actions of the cabildo of Santiago, and he clarifies the role of the upper classes in Chile and their quest for personal security in the years when the disintegration of the monarchy forced them to look to their own interests. The book, otherwise scholarly, suffers from lack of an index.

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*Cartas del Libertador. Tomo XII (1803-1830).* Compilation & notes by MANUEL PÉREZ VILA. Caracas, 1959. Fundación John Boulton. Illustrations. Indices. Pp. xxi, 469. Paper.

Many unedited letters of the Liberator were found when the Fundación John Boulton microfilmed all documents in the Archivo Nacional de Bogotá relating to Venezuelan history. During the same period J. León Helguera of North Carolina State College, commissioned by the Fundación, discovered more original letters in the United States. The directors of the Fundación realized that these letters plus others which Lecuna had not published or had inserted in various issues of the *Boletín de la Academia Nacional de la Historia* would fill a volume. They decided to continue the *Cartas del Libertador* with this Volume XII, preserving the format, critical editing and analytical index of the previous volumes; and adding a few new and useful features. One of the most helpful is the Spanish translation which follows letters originally written in English or French.

For a very good reason some letters are included in Volume XII which appear in those edited by Lecuna. He edited copies which contained errors while the Fundación John Boulton has the original letters or more perfect copies. The Fundación John Boulton is to be congratulated for thus building on the solid foundation laid by Vicente Lecuna.

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