

author's appointment to the Academia de la Historia of Venezuela.

Of the twelve portraits here considered three are of special interest. The first, a drawing of 1788 at the Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, is the earliest known likeness of Miranda. After careful analysis, Boulton considers it an anonymous work, in contradiction to the opinions of William S. Robertson and other historians who thought it was by Heinrich Lips. The second is a handsome recently discovered pastel of Bolívar made in Haiti in 1816 by an unknown artist. Now in the author's possession, this is the only known portrait of the Liberator from this period. The third is a painting at the Venezuelan embassy in London which is here identified as an anonymous portrait of Sucre. The text is engagingly written and fortified with considerable documentation.

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*Los proyectos españoles para reconquistar el Río de la Plata (1820-1833)*. By JOSE M. MARILUZ URQUIJO. Buenos Aires, 1958. Editorial Perrot. La Torre de Babel, 5. Illustration. Name Index. Pp. 210. Paper.

The present work describes Spanish projects, official and otherwise, for the recovery of the former colony in the Río de la Plata. Dr. Mariluz Urquijo first examines the policy of the Spanish government towards America and especially the Río de la Plata in the period from 1820 to 1833 when the sole objective was reconquest, though the author distinguishes variations within this policy. There is a useful account of pro-Spanish elements in the Río de la Plata and a highly informative chapter on the Spanish embassy in Río de Janeiro which remained the centre of loyalist interest in South America and the place from which official policy was organised. The second half of the book describes the various plans submitted to the government by private individuals—Ameri-

cans, Spaniards and foreigners. Some of them are serious political documents, others reflect the private interests of adventurers and the fantasy of eccentrics. None of them got any further than the archives. Nevertheless, in spite of the utter failure of these projects, they remain an accurate reflection of the intransigence of Spanish policy under Ferdinand VII which saw American independence as a transitory movement and was completely bankrupt of any other ideas. Dr. Mariluz Urquijo, using extensive material from Spanish archives, clarifies this policy by his information and his analysis.

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*Los Rodríguez Peña y la emancipación argentina*. By JUAN MARTÍN BIEDMA. Buenos Aires, 1959. Privately printed, Río Bamba 1059, Buenos Aires. Bibliography. Pp. 157. Paper.

Students of the Revolución de Mayo have generally focused their attention on such outstanding figures as Saavedra, Moreno, and San Martín, and on institutional developments. Other participants in the independence movement are either faintly known or forgotten. In the modest volume under review Juan Martín Biedma seeks to rescue from oblivion, and does so successfully, the Rodríguez Peña brothers, Saturnino and Nicolás, both of whom deserve full length biographies. Saturnino helped Beresford escape from Buenos Aires in 1807 with the evident hope of obtaining British protection for the revolution, corresponded with Miranda, and inspired or supported pre-1810 rebel plans to appeal to Carlota Joaquina to head a regency or to João VI to establish a Portuguese protectorate in the Río de la Plata. The leader of one rebel group that was active from the beginning of the rebellion, Nicolás was a member of the Junta Provisional, the Second Triumvirate, and the Consejo de Estado of 1814. Biedma can only outline the lives of Saturnino and Nicolás, but his well-documented work