

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.

JOHN LYNCH

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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

will be used as a point of departure by future investigators.

JOSEPH T. CRISCENTI

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*Viajes por el interior de la América meridional.* By JULIAN MELLET. Santiago, 1959. Editorial del Pacífico. Pp. 289. Paper.

Julian Mellet came to Uruguay in 1808 as a passenger on a French vessel carrying arms to the Spanish colonials. When his ship failed to run the British blockade of the Río de la Plata, Mellet found himself virtually marooned in South America for more than a decade. Primarily a trader, he wandered through the Argentine for about five years. His travels took him into the northwestern provinces and Paraguay and finally over the Andes to Chile (1814). After early commercial success at Coquimbo was blighted by royalist activity, Mellet went to Peru, but a brush with the Inquisition suggested the wisdom of pushing on to Ecuador and Colombia where he continued to trade for the next three years (1816-1819). Unfavorable conditions in Colombia at last drove the young Frenchman into the West Indies. He visited Jamaica and Cuba and finally returned to France in 1820.

With a minimum of autobiographical detail, Mellet contents himself with a bald description of the economic life of the countries through which he traveled. Much of the material is valuable since this is one of less than a dozen extant travel accounts for the period of turmoil just preceding the victories which brought independence to South America.

The translation seems very good because it retains the flavor of the original French and suggests also the probability that Mellet, though literate, was not literary. The book as a whole could have been improved by the addition of an index and a map.

TOM B. JONES

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AFTER 1830

GENERAL

*Buena y mala vecindad.* By ISIDRO FABELA. Mexico City, 1958. Editorial América Nueva. Colección Autores Contemporáneos, X. Prologue by VINCENTE SÁENZ. Pp. 330. Paper.

Isidro Fabela's recent celebration of his fiftieth anniversary as a writer was the occasion for a series of articles praising his contributions as chancellor, diplomat, juriconsultant, and writer. Equally appropriate is the present compilation of some of Fabela's own lectures, studies and articles of the past three decades.

The scattered writings have been organized, where possible, by region and chronologically. The following topics are included: the emergence of the United States from isolation; Mexico and the United States; Central America and the United States in the mid-nineteenth century; the United States and the Great Antilles; and points of view on Hispanoamericanism, Panamericanism and Monroeism. Fabela reveals himself as an anti-imperialist and as a determined partisan of Hispanoamericanism, nonintervention and the Drago Doctrine. There is fulsome praise of Franklin Roosevelt and the policy of the good neighbor which, however, is more than counter-balanced by strong condemnation of United States' military aid pacts, the Conference of Caracas and the "immolation of Guatemala."

While many of the articles suffer from their contemporaneous journalistic and even polemical character, others represent more studied efforts. The end result is an indictment of recent United States' policy in the hemisphere by an intelligent Latin American on political, economic, and juridical grounds.

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