

1850's, Marcy won wide respect for his thoughtful conduct of foreign affairs. His greatest triumph came in 1854 with the Marcy-Elgin Treaty which eased Anglo-American tensions, but in many ways he served his country better by restraining the impulsive Young Americans with their plans for the acquisition of Cuba and their numerous filibustering expeditions in Central America. He bitterly opposed the erratic efforts of Pierre Soulé to detach Cuba from Spain and, though the Ostend Manifesto was in part due to his own ambiguous instructions to Soulé, Marcy was finally able to frustrate the expansionists.

Spencer's biography, the first full-length portrait of Marcy to appear, is based on a thorough study of manuscript collections. Wisely choosing to concentrate on Marcy's years as Secretary of State, the author, however, is tedious in his detailed accounts of diplomatic maneuvering. An awkward style and a strong favoritism for Marcy further mar the presentation of a very sound job of research and investigation.

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ARGENTINA

Argentine. Un monde. Une ville. By R. M. ALBÈRES. Paris, 1957. Librairie Hachette. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 350.

Out of his nine year residence in Argentina after World War II and the characteristic French ability to compress data and insights from half a dozen disciplines into a stimulating synthesis, M. Albères has written the best general account of Argentina known to the reviewer.

There are five sections in the book. The first, "Un Pays d'Horizons," may rather set one's teeth on edge: it seems at the outset that here is another hackneyed European account of the vastness and rawness of Argentina, written with the author's eyes firmly fixed on little old France. But our author moves with increasing deftness through the psycho-environmental maze,

emerging with such illuminating comments as, "Les dix kilomètres du port de Buenos Aires constituent pratiquement la seule frontière économique ou intellectuelle de l'Argentine." The second part of the book is a long and incisive view of Buenos Aires. Part Three describes the provinces. Part Four, "La Nation et les Hommes," is mainly an analysis of contemporary society, but placed against a good historical summary in which the key role of the immigrant is emphasized ("On mit les hommes dans le pays comme on met du charbon au foyer de la locomotive"). Part Five is entitled "Richesses et Activités," and the sixth section, "Civilisation et Culture Argentines." The latter is a keen examination of the Argentine cultural temperament and the achievements and defects in that sector of Argentine life.

Except for occasional carelessness (also characteristically French) in the use of Spanish accent marks, this is such a good book that it is a pity that it will probably never appear in the language most Americans read.

THOMAS F. MCGANN

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The Argentine Novel in the Nineteenth Century. By MYRON I. LICHTBLAU. New York, 1959. Hispanic Institute in the United States. Bibliography. Pp. 225. Paper. \$4.50.

Given Argentina's belated political and cultural history, this work assumes a significance somewhat broader than that indicated by the title. It becomes, perforce, a study of the origins of Argentine prose fiction and a scrutiny of its line of development as it relates to social phenomena, literary movements, external influences, and the unfolding of that national aesthetic consciousness which has rapidly moved Argentina to the forefront in Hispano-American letters.

The approach is basically historical. Though the author sets criticism as one of his objectives, other problems—chronological ordering and classification,

the provision of adequate bibliographical data—seem to have enforced themselves upon him as paramount necessities. Certainly the work testifies to a prodigious amount of investigation and yields a judicious assemblage of much raw material not available in U. S. collections. The work also abounds in fresh insights into the antecedents of divers literary tendencies. Students of Argentine letters, who will certainly consult Lichtblau's study as an indispensable reference work, will be perturbed to find it lacking an onomastic index. On the other hand it contains an extensive chronological listing of Argentine prose fiction, abundant reference sources, and a lengthy selective bibliography of books and articles on individual authors and works.

MARSHALL R. NASON

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La caída de Rosas. El imperio de Brasil y la Confederación Argentina (1843-1851). Guerra argentino-brasileña de 1851. Gestión del pronunciamiento de Urquiza. Caseros. Los tratados de Río de Janeiro. By JOSÉ MARÍA ROSAS. Madrid, 1958. Instituto de Estudios Políticos. Bibliography. Pp. 628. Paper.

This is perhaps the most ambitious study of the last decade of the Rosas era to appear in recent years. Using a wide variety of source materials—Uruguayan, Brazilian, and Argentine—, José María Rosas attempts to shed new light on French, British, and Brazilian diplomacy in the Río de la Plata region from 1842 to 1852. Although he does not substantially alter John F. Cady's account of the Anglo-French interventions, he concludes that Rosas's refusal to accede to English and French demands prevented them from fractionalizing South America. Rosas, he maintains, was unquestionably the great champion of South American solidarity and of Argentine economic independence from Great Britain. He is primarily concerned, however, with Brazilian political de-

velopments as they affected Brazilian policy toward Uruguay, Paraguay, and the Argentine Confederation, and with the origins of the Triple Alliance against Rosas. His analysis of the Brazilian scene, of the political factions and separatist movements, of Rosas's popularity among the Brazilian "socialists" of 1848, is stimulating but inconclusive. The evidence he presents fails to substantiate adequately his theses that the republicans of Rio Grande do Sul in 1842 wanted to form a federation with Argentina, that the Brazilian aristocracy finally turned against a "democratic" and "socialistic" Rosas in 1848 because he threatened the social and political stability of the Empire, if not its very existence, and that Brazil needed a war to avoid disintegration but was afraid or unable to fight a powerful Argentine Confederation without European or American allies. Only late in 1850 did Brazil realize the possibility of an alliance with Urquiza, who, until then without any real intentions of betraying *la patria*, was "forced" by circumstances to revolt. The remainder of the volume is devoted to the negotiation of the Triple Alliance, to the campaign against Rosas, and to the events leading to the withdrawal of Brazilian troops from Argentine territory.

The author has documented his work with abundant quotations from contemporary sources, but unfortunately he is not always analytical or consistent.

JOSEPH T. CRISENTI

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Forjadores del surco por iniciativa privada. Candelaria—Villa Casilda. (Biografía de la Ciudad Agraria). 1870-1907. By HÉCTOR M. LAGOS. Santa Fe, Argentina, 1957. Editorial Candelaria. "Colección Postas y Colonias Argentinas" Illustration. Bibliography. Pp. 141. Paper.

This unpretentious work was published in 1957 to celebrate two notable events in the history of Casilda, a city located some eighty miles from Rosario, Santa Fe. One was the fiftieth anni-