

do Sul shortly before and during the period 1836-1845. It will interest historians because it brings to life not only the episodes of the civil war but also the chief contenders on both sides, among them Generals Bento Gonçalves, Bento Manuel, and the Baron of Caxias. As a sociologist Contreiras Rodrigues has created an extensive background in terms of human and physical geography, *gaúcho* customs, folklore, and language. As a poet he has brought to the lineal events, the depth-giving elements of plot, character, theme, and symbol. The sub-title will suggest one of the central defects of narrative technique: a horse that is human and equine at the same time is not the ideal narrator of a novel in the realistic vein.

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*Memórias. Borges de Medeiros e seu tempo.* Vol. I. By JOÃO NEVES DA FONTOURA. Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, São Paulo, 1958. Editora Globo. Pp. x, 401. Paper.

João Neves de Fontoura, diplomat, writer and parliamentarian, was closely involved in Brazilian politics for over a half century. In his later years he represented Brazil at Vichy and at Lisbon, and he was foreign minister in 1946. He headed special diplomatic missions at Havana and at Panama, and was chief of mission at the Bogotá Conference in 1948.

In the earlier part of his career, however, he was almost completely identified with the Republican party in Rio Grande do Sul. In the volume at hand, the author reviews the tumultuous days of the Borges Madeiros regime. Austere, talented and iron-willed, Madeiros had taken over the leadership of the state in 1903 after the death of Júlio de Castilhos, who had dominated the gaúcho province from the early days of the Brazilian Republic. With Pinheiro Machado more or less permanently installed as the state's chief representative in the national government, it was Borges Madeiros' job to boss home affairs,

and to bring along into political life such promising young men as João Neves, Flores da Cunha, Maurício Cardoso, and Getúlio Vargas.

The style of the book is leisurely and attractive; there is an interesting description of life in a German Jesuit colegio near Porto Alegre, of the preparations for the visit of Afonso Penna before taking over the Presidency of Brazil, and of the preparation of a defiant anti-government manifesto of the university students in 1907, a manifesto signed by the author, by Getúlio Vargas, Eurico Gaspar Dutra and by Pedro Aurelio de Gois Monteiro, to mention but a few. As the narrative carries on into the twenties, there are accounts of the activities of men like Assis Brasil, Eduardo Gómes, Luiz Carlos Prestes, and João Alberto. We learn something of the beginnings of the Liberal Alliance, and the volume ends with retirement of Borges Madeiros into private life at the very time that Vargas and João Neves move out of state into national affairs.

These *Memórias* should be of great interest to those working in Brazilian political and social history, 1890-1930; unfortunately, there is no table of contents nor index.

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*A vida de Joaquim Nabuco.* By CAROLINA NABUCO. Rio de Janeiro, 1958. Livraria José Olympio. Coleção Documentos Brasileiros, 92. Illustrations. Name index. Pp. 478. Paper.

This is the fourth edition of Carolina Nabuco's famous biography of her father, known to the world as an abolitionist and an able diplomat. The text does not reveal any changes. There are, however, 21 photographs of episodes of Nabuco's life which give us a clear impression of the distinguished, Brazilian, photographs which are sometimes in striking contrast because of their simplicity with the ornate style of the text. What is needed now is an objective assessment of Nabuco's achievements; as time goes on, the

figure of Ruy Barbosa seems to stand out in greater relief.

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#### CHILE

*The Human Geography of Southern Chile.* By GILBERT J. BUTLAND. London, 1957. George Philip & Son. The Institute of British Geographers Publication, 4. Figures. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 132. Paper. 20/

This book presents a wealth of data relating to Chile's far southern provinces of Aysen and Magallanes, a maze of islands, channels and peninsulas which have been for the great part shunned by man. The island people live amid labyrinth passages and stormy seas; the mainland communities are equally isolated among barriers of mountains, ice fields, glaciers, lakes, forests, and an international frontier. Yet ninety thousand healthy, intelligent inhabitants of these remote provinces, with only air and inadequate maritime transport to the rest of Chile, provide vital supplies of meat, wool, skins, and petroleum for national consumption and export trade.

Doctor Butland covers the various aspects of the physical landscape, the historical evolution of settlement, and the present economy of these lands which have been so aptly called "the uttermost part of the earth." He uses 29 maps and diagrams to compile in concise form the details of his observations during four years of travels on foot, horseback, cycle, car and boat. His reader cannot but conclude that this fascinating region merits fuller and more widespread settlement.

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#### COSTA RICA

*The Costa Rican Election of 1953: A Case Study.* By HARRY KANTOR. Gainesville, 1958. University of Florida Press. Monographs. Septem-

ber, 1958, No. 5. Foreword. Tables. Pp. vii. 68 p. Paper.

This is a book by a political scientist who knows and admires Costa Rica and its people, especially those who support José Figueres and the Liberación Nacional Party. The strength of the book lies in making available in English a brief, clearly-written account of the process of nominating and electing candidates in Costa Rica, with special focus on the 1953 case study.

The program of Figueres and Liberación Nacional ". . . was relatively simple. It proposed to abolish poverty in Costa Rica" (p. 37). José Figueres was elected president on July 26, 1953 by a majority of about 60 per cent of the votes cast, "a tremendous majority," "an overwhelming victory" (p. 64). The author gives uncritical approval to Figueres and Liberación Nacional. Some Latin Americanists may ponder the implications of approving proposals to "abolish poverty" in a country. Certainly such proposals have poignantly pathetic consequences for lower class people who are encouraged to believe that a political party, when in power, can in fact abolish poverty.

President Figueres and Liberación Nacional did not, of course, "abolish poverty" in Costa Rica. Indeed, the Government's "interventionist" and welfare program produced disillusionment, and Figueres' candidate (Francisco Orlich) was defeated by Mario Echandi, an enemy of Liberación Nacional, in the presidential elections of February 2, 1958.

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#### COLOMBIA

*20 años de la federación nacional de cafeteros de Colombia. 1937-1957.* By MANUEL MEJÍA J. Bogotá, 1957. Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia. Graphs. Charts. Illustrations. Plans. Pp. 176. Paper.

Upon the completion of Manuel Mejía's twentieth year as manager, the