

butions to his country as journalist and statesman.

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Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza y su tiempo, su vida-su obra. By ARMANDO DE MARIA Y CAMPOS. Mexico, 1959. Talleres Gráficos de la Nación. Illustration. Pp. 436. Paper.

This is neither a biography of Gorostiza, a picture of his times, nor a study of his works, any one of which would require an intimate knowledge of background and a sense of perspective sadly lacking here. The volume consists of a hodgepodge of undigested and carelessly copied quotations and documents, thrown together with little regard for order or chronology. The compiler is a newspaper man with all the shortcomings and few of the virtues of members of his profession. The scant documentation is open to sharp criticism, and bibliography and index are conspicuous by their absence.

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La novela de la revolución mexicana. By ANTONIO CASTRO LEAL. Mexico City, 1958. Aguilar Editor. Frontispiece. Place Index. Vocabulary. Bibliography. Pp. xlv, 1024. Cloth.

It is most fitting that an anthology now be prepared which makes available in decent editorial condition the best fiction produced by Mexican writers who described the impact on the Mexican people of the Revolution (1910-1940).

Included in this first volume are three novels of Azuela, two of Guzmán, two of Campobello and one each of Vasconcelos and Vera. The total effect of these pieces is powerful and fascinating. Largely based on first-hand observation of events and personalities, they reflect vividly the violence and passion of the Mexican holocaust. **Strictly** speaking, only a few of them are novels. The remainder are really memoirs, and yet they depict events of such epic grandeur and develop characters so art-

fully and dramatically that they must be included among the masterpieces of Revolutionary fiction. Most critics would agree that the cream of this first collection are Azuela's *Los de abajo*, Guzmán's *El águila y la serpiente*, and Vasconcelos' autobiographical *Ulises criollo*.

Readers will appreciate the introductory essay, brief biographical sketches, cast of real and fictitious characters, vocabulary of Mexicanisms, and appended bibliography.

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El pensamiento agrario en la constitución de 1857. By ROSILDA BLANCO MARTINEZ. Mexico City, 1957. Ediciones Botas. Pp. 177. Paper.

Originally presented as a thesis, this volume is one of many works published on the occasion of the centennial observance of the 1857 charter. Described by its author as an "essay which focuses on the thought of the *Constituyentes* from the agrarian viewpoint," it is in reality a series of source selections accompanied by a commentary that rarely transcends the superficial. Moreover only three members of the Constituent Assembly are treated: Ponciano Arriaga, whose famous *voto particular* on property rights is reproduced; Isidoro Olvera; and José Castillo Velasco. The bulk of the book is devoted to excerpts from writings, decrees, or legislative proposals issued prior or subsequent to the Constituent Assembly. Among those whose ideas are treated in this manner are Abad y Queypo, Francisco Maldonado, José María Luis Mora, Lorenzo de Zavala, Miguel Lerdo, and Andrés Molina Enríquez. The book concludes with an analysis of Article 27 of the 1917 Constitution and a listing of subsequent agrarian legislation. In terms of novelty of sources or depth of analysis this book contributes little.

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