the Central Valley of California. He has added a picture of many invader-tive contacts within the Indian habitat, invaluable for anthropological and historical studies. Many pages of notes which clarify and correct often inaccurate statements of soldiers and priests make this a work of lasting worth. Omission of a map will be a handicap to all not intimately acquainted with the area.

EUGENE K. CHAMBERLIN
San Diego Junior College


The year 1958 marked the 450th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León’s arrival in Puerto Rico. This volume was published as a part of the celebration honoring this Spanish soldier, the first governor of the island. It is not surprising, therefore, that this biography is eulogistic in its portrayal of Ponce de León. According to Señor Murga, the virtuous conquistador was enterprising, courageous, self-sacrificing, benevolent, and altruistic, an enlightened administrator who brought democratic and progressive government to Puerto Rico.

The author has built a strong case. He has probed deeply into manuscript sources in Spain and has reinforced and implemented his Ponce de León into proper focus. Rather than the decrepit old man searching vainly for a regenerative fountain whose waters would bring eternal youth, Ponce emerges as an important figure in the development of the Spanish Empire in the Caribbean. Despite its adulatory character, this work is valuable both for its new interpretation of the life of Ponce de León and for the new light it sheds on early Spanish expansion into the West Indies and the continental United States.

JOHN TEPASKY
Ohio State University

Historia geográfica, civil y natural de la isla de San Juan Bautista de Puer-

In 1771 the Benedictine monk, Fray Inígo Abbad, went to Puerto Rico as confessor to Bishop Jiménez Pérez. Left in charge by the aging bishop, Abbad was caught in the Church-State struggle then in progress on the island. Abbad was young, zealous, and outspoken and it was inevitable that he should come in conflict with the civil authorities. Charged with usury, being a seducer and disturber of the peace, and a falsifier of the royal slave stamp, he returned to Spain where two years later he was cleared of all charges.

In Spain he wrote his history of Puerto Rico which first appeared in 1788, was revised in 1831 and again in 1866. The work is objective and encyclopedic and is based almost entirely upon the works of Herrera, Oviedo, Raynal, Valladares, Acosta, Las Casas, and other chroniclers. Emphasis is placed on the sixteenth century and upon natural history with only an occasional glimpse of the life of his own era.

A most valuable and interesting section of this edition is the excellent preliminary study by Isabel Gutiérrez del Arroyo, for it contains not only a careful and detailed critique of the sources used by Abbad but an analysis of the friar’s life and character as well.

GWENDOLIN B. COBB
Fresno State College


This journal of a young creole aristocrat of Haiti, written in the elaborately stylized manner that was fashionable in polite eighteenth century society, describes the anonymous author’s experiences in the French Revolution and its thunderous repercussions in Saint Dom-