de Santillán came to Chile to study and supervise Indian labor in the gold mining areas. Santillán hoped, at the same time, to improve the working conditions of the laborers with the desire of facilitating their incorporation into Spanish colonial life. His laudable object was difficult to fulfill. The author of this volume has investigated the causes of the failure and pinpoints the blame on the Spanish capitalists who placed their own private interests above the welfare of their laborers. The result, the author concludes, has been a stratified and stagnant society which has plagued the nation ever since. By citing impressive documentation from colonial census and economic reports, a strong thesis is established by Jara.

Terence S. Tarr
University of Mississippi


With some misgivings the reviewer perused this novelette on the English Platine invasions of 1806-1807. These doubts soon vanished, however, in the face of a skillful and artistic re-creation of those trying days in the history of Buenos Aires. The hero and narrator of this autobiography is an imaginary young cadet who witnessed and participated in those momentous events, thoughtfully taking notes. This device permitted the author to capture the spirit of the times and thus provide an ‘‘internal history’’ of the invasions. Written with simplicity and concern for historical authenticity, the account contains valuable insights into the following themes: the popular reaction to Viceroy Sobre Monte who fled from the city at the first rifle shot, as the old saying goes; the intense competition between Montevideo and Buenos Aires; the porteños’ national consciousness; the assistance and cooperation of pampa chieftains; the petty rivalries of official bodies in Buenos Aires; the defense preparations and especially the project to illuminate the coast so as to detect the invader; the cooperation of the non-whites and slaves with attendant problems; and the faithful description of buildings, dress, and language of that era. Key documents are also reproduced in the text.

The fictitious elements of the story are easily discernible and lend a rustic charm to the account. And though scholars might balk at history in this form, the layman will undoubtedly welcome it. The novelette has a solid documentary base and draws principally from cabildo records, which the author has studied in detail. All in all, this is a delightful evening’s reading.

Mario Rodríguez
University of Arizona


Estanislau Fischlowitz, professor at the Universidade Católica of Rio de Janeiro and technical assistant in the Brazilian Ministry of Labor, has written a life of Krzysztof Arciszewski (1592-1655), the well-known Polish soldier of fortune in the service of the Dutch West India Company. This is the most complete study we have seen in Portuguese of the Polish colonel renowned for his skill as a strategist and builder of fortifications.

In his preface Austregesilo de Athayde of the Brazilian Academy states that the book furnishes material supplementing the studies of Gustavo Barroso and Tadeusz Skowronski which I have not seen. Senhor Fischlowitz does not pretend to add anything to our knowledge, convincing himself to the major secondary works about Arciszewski. This is unfortunate, as a scholarly study would be most welcome. Professor Fischlowitz is tem-