

Büchergilde Gutenberg. Illustrations. Pp. 20, 100.

This superbly illustrated volume, "Venezuela, Land of Contrasts," is more than a mere picture book. The introductory sixteen pages of text by Kurt Pahlen, are a résumé of the country's history, and a description of the physical features that have served as a background to that history. The illustrations are organized so as to emphasize the marked contrasts evident in the several regions of the country: between the high, cold sectors of the Andes, where tiny, terraced plots of wheat and potatoes are separated from each other by fences made of stones obtained in clearing the fields they delimit, and the vast plains, the *Llanos*, of natural grass, where for centuries steers have been raised in a semi-feral state and then slowly driven to the markets in the towns of the central mountains of the coast ranges.

But social and economic contrasts are even more marked than the physical ones. The mountaineer laboriously hulls his coffee by pulling a huge stone over it, yet he may be very well off where he is; for the billion dollar oil industry has created giant, modern megalopolises like Caracas and Maracaibo, behind whose glittering façade live in abject poverty thousands of slum dwellers—often people who left their tiny agricultural plots to search for El Dorado elsewhere. It is to be hoped that there will be an expanding agricultural frontier to meet the growing demand for foodstuffs created by cities; thus more people may be content to engage in farming.

This is indeed a fascinating book, highly recommended for those eager to come to grips with Latin American problems.

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*Ecuador, Country of Contrasts*. 3rd. ed. By LILO LINKE. London, 1960. Oxford University Press. Royal Insti-

tute of International Affairs. Maps. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 193. \$4.00.

Although the plan of the Royal Institute of International Affairs to issue a handbook for each of the nations of Latin America has not yet been completed, the fact that some of the first books have already been replaced by new editions augurs well for the future. Succinct and reliable, treasure troves of pertinent explanations and statistical data, they provide unique sources of information for students, travelers, and even the busy professor searching for specific bits for a lecture or a talk. They are the librarians' "five-foot shelf" of knowledge about Latin America. I will always remember a discussion about the social customs of the *montuvios* among a number of the faculty of the Central University at Quito which was resolved by an appeal to Miss Linke's book in this series. It is truly a distinction to be a prophet with honor in one's own country.

This third edition surveys contemporary Ecuador topically, following the same general plan of the previous editions. Actually little has been changed except for adding a few more recent statistics and comments about current events. The admirable analyses are virtually the same. Two criticisms may be advanced. First, the bibliography has not been brought up to date, although late information has been integrated in the text. Secondly, Miss Linke, I believe, deals too skeptically with the administration of Galo Plaza and too leniently with José María Velasco Ibarra, Ecuador's omnipresent man-of-the-hour.

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*Escritos políticos*. By FRANCISCO XAVIER DE LUNA PIZARRO. Introduction and notes by ALBERTO TAURO. Lima, 1959. Editorial San Marcos. Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. Biblioteca de

Historia. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xl, 227, 56. Paper.

The principal events, the essential facts of the life and career of this prelate and the patriot have long been known. His early advocacy of Peruvian independence, his conflicts with San Martín, his participation in the constituent assembly of 1822, his opposition to the dictatorial rule of Bolívar, his later attempts to install civilian governments, or, at least, to allow only the most conciliatory and cooperative military leaders to take power; these have been known sufficiently well to earn him the honor of being called the father of civilian government for Peru, the precursor of the *civilista* movement of the latter part of the nineteenth century. But, since he was usually content to work from behind the scenes or through others, made few speeches and rarely wrote for publication, detailed and precise knowledge upon his ideas and plans has not always been available.

This prudent and discreet man, however, did correspond with certain of his friends and associates, did make an occasional speech, did publish a few articles, and did preach, particularly in his later years, sermons on subjects of political interest. These are the types of *escritos políticos* which Alberto Tauro has found in various private and public archives in Peru, Chile, and Bolivia, and which he has published in the present volume. The 165 documents (including the 42 items appearing in the *suplemento* which comprises the final 56 pages of this work) herewith published should give considerable aid to the scholar, should supply a large number of valuable bits of information about the man and his times. "Bits of information" rather than great amounts of it since Luna Pizarro, even in his private communications, did not consider it prudent "to put on paper what best should be forgotten."

C. NORMAN GUICE

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The following books were reviewed by Charles W. Arnade, State University of Iowa.

*José Ballivián 1805-1852*. By MANUEL CARRASCO. Buenos Aires, 1960. Imprenta López. Pp. 257. Paper.

José Ballivián (1805-1852) was a president of Bolivia (1841-1847). Bolivia was created in 1825. She was in grave danger of losing her sovereignty at the hands of neighbors and Bolivians who wanted union with Peru. In 1841 Peru invaded Bolivia to achieve the definite annexation. The Peruvian forces were routed by General Ballivián at Ingavi. Ballivián assumed the presidency and made Bolivia a permanent country during his six years of dynamic rule.

This biography is a good one. Because the author has used some new Ballivián correspondence he has produced an original book. Style, presentation, and organization are beyond reproach. Carrasco's interpretations are thoughtful, and he has good identity with nineteenth-century Bolivia. Ballivián is ably analyzed—there is no patriotic screeching nor any absurd admiration for the biographical subject.

The Carrasco book has objectionable features: no identification of sources (new documents are used), no bibliography (much has been written about Ballivián), no index. The author lacks acquaintance with the Ballivián bibliography. Although Manuel Carrasco is identified on the jacket as an eminent historian who has published a biography of Simón Patiño this reviewer has failed to find out anything about Carrasco or about his Patiño biography. In view of the good Ballivián book Mr. Carrasco deserves better recognition.

*Foro político sobre economía boliviana*. La Paz, 1959-[1961]. Facultad de Ciencias Económicas. Universidad Mayor de San Andrés. Pp. 134. Paper.

To those interested in twentieth-century Bolivia this is a fascinating