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


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 screecching 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.


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