
Eduard Poeppig (1798-1868) from Plauen, Germany, was a distinguished professor of zoology at the University of Leipzig. Between 1827 and 1832 he traveled on a research trip through South America, especially Chile and Peru. He then descended into the Amazon valley and to the Brazilian Atlantic coast. In 1835-1836 he published two extensive volumes which described his adventures. This book under review is simply a new printing (photocopy) of the two tomes joined into one. The only addition is a new title page. There are sixteen attached pictures and one map.

Such a travel account has its great merits and its shortcomings. Poeppig was an acute observer and his interest in the natural sciences, in economics, and in political situations give such a travel book a much broader perspective than many others. His notes attached to each chapter are not the usual footnotes—he called them Anmerkungen (additions, remarks, observations). They deal with a variety of things such as the political situation in Peru, the Napo River, opinions about mestizos, botanical discussions, economic consular reports, and so forth. These Anmerkungen, as well as the text, have valuable information. There is no doubt that the Poeppig book is a storehouse of information about a great variety of topics. Naturally he is at his best when he describes matters in the realm of the natural sciences and medicines. All this is enhanced by the fact that Poeppig traveled in a period just after the Wars of Independence when data for such matters is rather sparse (compared to the Enlightenment immediately before the Wars of Independence). Poeppig's ability as an acute observer did not dispel his typical prejudices of an European (German). For example, he was violently devoted to the idea that the mestizo is the curse of Latin America because he is of mixed blood (II, 166-169).

While it is good to have a new, easily available printing of the Poeppig volumes the complete absence of an introduction telling us something of the man and his doings and motives is most deplorable. The lack of an index (when so many names and places are mentioned) is also a grave defect. Editorial notes would have been welcome. There just is no editor or editorial effort for this book.


In contrast with Carlos Raygada's monograph on the national anthem of Chile's northern neighbor, Canales Toro's study deals exclusively with the text. This emphasis is valid, when the music for the Peruvian and Chilean national anthems is compared. José Bernardo Alzado, the composer of the music for the Peruvian anthem, was born in Lima and returned to spend his declining years there after forty years of music making in Santiago de Chile. Ramón Carnicer, composer of the Chilean anthem, never visited American shores. Don Mariano Egnaña, Chilean ambassador to Great Britain, commissioned the music for the pristine version of the poem by Bernardo Vera. Canales Toro assigns the Carnicer music to 1828 at page 21 and to 1827 at page 145.

Since Vera's text, like that of some other national anthems, strongly rebuked Spain, a gentler version was written by a successor poet, Eusebio Lillo (1847). When the anthem with music was printed at Valparaíso in 1859, the chorus was Vera's, the strophes were Lillo's, and the music Carnicer's. With scrupulous diligence, Canales Toro traces all the governmen-