

ticularly the authors do not free themselves from the naive socialistic ABC's which are recited in a parrot-like fashion. There is a deplorable distortion and a neglect of historical data.

THE PLATA REGION

Life and Literature of the Pampas. By EDWARD LAROCQUE TINKER. Gainesville, 1961. University of Florida Press. Latin American Monographs no. 13. School of Inter-American Studies. University of Florida. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. vii, 51. Paper.

In an interesting illustration of the general American colonial turning from any mere imitation of European literary models to the utilization of local materials in the creation of national literatures, Edward Larocque Tinker traces the development of the gaucho theme in Argentina and Uruguay. Chapters on the gaucho in verse, on the stage, and in prose are enriched with biographical details about the authors and preceded by a description of the gaucho himself and of the life he led. A brief bibliography of gaucho literature and a checklist of a few dictionaries of Americanisms conclude this useful and well-written summary account. It should be welcomed not only by students of Latin American literature but by the general reader as well.

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Milicia literaria de Mayo (ecos, crónicas y pervivencias). By RAÚL H. CASTAGNINO. Buenos Aires, 1960. Editorial Nova. Illustrations. Pp. 184. Paper.

In commemoration of the sesquicentennial observance of the independence movement of May, 1810, Raúl H. Castagnino has assembled this documentary essay. Castagnino believes that among Spanish Americans there are two forces at work, a basic Hispan-

ism with an unhealthy effect on the temperament, and an anti-Hispanism, impregnated with Jacobin liberalism and English energy and enlightenment. Sometimes the conservative, caudillistic tendencies of Spain have predominated, sometimes the ideology of liberal democracy and the spirit of change and progress. He sees the May revolution as an expression of the latter, of a drive for religious, political and economic liberty. This book concerns itself with those who wrote in support of such ideas.

Castagnino has attempted to collect the liberal writings that have suffered obscurity due to vehicle of publication, literary quality, or reputation of author. He has unearthed essays, poems, editorials and dramas long since forgotten, all having in common the "spirit of May." Some pieces have been reprinted earlier, most have been unearthed for the first time in over a century.

This book is useful in presenting a picture of contemporary thought and attitude toward the revolution of May. It fails (deliberately) to include documentation on the ground that it is intended for popular consumption, and at any rate the sources are known and accessible to the Argentine scholar.

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La juventud de Félix Frías, 1816-1841. By AMBROSIO ROMERO CARRANZA. Buenos Aires, 1960. Publicaciones del Seminario de Estudios de Historia Argentina. Map. Bibliography. Pp. 406. Paper.

In 1960 Argentina celebrated her sesquicentennial year of independence. The Seminario de Estudios de Historia Argentina observed the year by publishing two studies, one of which, the first volume in a projected full-length biography of Félix Frías by Ambrosio Romero Carranza, is reviewed here. Frías, it is true, did not participate in the struggle for independence, but his career as a Catholic layman attracted the attention of the Seminario