

theless, the book does not contain any new addition to our knowledge of the subject. It is largely a heaping together of a great amount of loose historical data, some of it quite erroneous, and none of it based on archival research. For example's sake, it is surprising to see Humboldt invoked as "autoridad indiscutible" on Ecuadorian prehistory (p. 48). Of bad taste are the author's repeated manifestations of political opportunism. However, the book can prove itself useful concerning the colonial antecedents of the border dispute, since most authors dedicated but little space to these. It also contains an excellent bibliography, though Dr. Silva feels compelled to give excuses (p. XVI): "no ha sido vanidoso prurito del autor el trazar una bibliografía extensa. . . ."

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Once ensayos. By ALFREDO PONCE RIBADENEIRA. Quito, 1963. Editorial "Fray Jodoco Rieke." Pp. 222. Paper. Sucre 18.00.

This new book by Father Ponce is, as the title indicates, a collection of essays, most of which reflect the author's reminiscences of a long visit to Spain. However, one of the essays, on the August 10, 1809, movement in Quito, is of some interest; and almost a third of the volume is dedicated to a biographical sketch of General Francisco Javier Salazar, one of the outstanding figures in Ecuador in the period 1864-1891. Father Ponce could make a real contribution by developing this essay into a full-scale biography of Salazar.

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Páginas de sangre, episodios trágicos de la historia de Bolivia. By MOISÉS ALCÁZAR. La Paz, 1962. Bibliography. Pp. 294. Paper.

This is really a corrected and enlarged version of the author's 1956 book entitled *Sangre en la historia*. It referred to Bolivian history and this new book also means bloody pages in

the history of Bolivia. It applies to such cases as the various assassinations or lynchings of Bolivian presidents (Belzú, Córdova, Blanco, Melgarejo, Morales, Pando, Busch, and Villarroel). Córdova, Melgarejo, and Pando were assassinated or lynched when enjoying the peaceful status of ex-president. The violent deaths of these eight presidents make eight out of fifteen chapters of this book. The others describe other episodes of violence—some of them of recent decades.

The author is modest; in his introduction he does not claim to be a historian, just someone who has gathered a little data and developed and summarized it. It is a useful book, readable, and written with a restrained dignity and a welcome impartiality.

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Melgarejo y su tiempo. By M. RIGOBERTO PAREDES. La Paz, 1962. Ediciones "Isla." Notes. Pp. 163. Paper.

Few good Bolivian historians have received proper attention in Bolivia, and there have been only a few of them. Bolivia has had plenty of mediocre historians. Among these was Manuel Rigoberto Paredes (1870-1951)—maybe he was a shade better than mediocre. In 1955 Paredes received a biobibliographic study by a foremost Bolivian scholar, the late José Antonio Arze (see my review, *HAHR*, Vol. 37). Now another study in honor of Paredes is published. Why the attraction for Paredes?—his pseudo-scholarship, his folklore bent, his love for the Indian, his localism, his biographical studies of the most colorful personalities loved by the mob, indeed, make his productions most appealing.

This book collects six essays of the late Paredes, of which the incomplete study of Melgarejo is the longest and has about seventy pages. The others deal with Ballivián, Belzú, and René-Moreno. There is also a short essay entitled "Los estudios históricos en Bolivia." Another essay deals with the Mojos and Chiquitos missions. Space