

come with a purely biographical approach. To demonstrate this point he discusses the novel, *Los Riberas*, written in 1957 by the Venezuelan historian, Mario Briceño-Iragorry. The Riberas family would be at home in a novel of Winston Churchill or Frank Norris; the family achieves wealth and power through unscrupulous dealings, including cheating on government contracts (one of which was to supply food to a leper colony) and acting as a "go-between" for foreign petroleum companies and the Gómez regime. This reminds one of the muckraker novel, but, granted the impact of the latter, it never replaced history writing. Carrera Damas, however, does not generalize and his views are carefully developed.

The second essay is more in the nature of an historical article, because it tells the story of the organizing of the Second Venezuelan Republic in 1813. The author wonders about the motives of the framers of the 1813 Constitution and concludes that the *criollos* spoke of liberty and equality, but were more concerned with maintaining their privileges. As one *criollo* wrote his wife at the time, he feared a slave uprising more than he feared the royalist leader, Boves. This thesis is not too different from that of Charles A. Beard, who ascribed reactionary motives to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787.

Finally, Carrera Damas writes about the teaching of history in Venezuela. Here is an essay which any history professor will appreciate. The author discusses the question of teacher or researcher; he recognizes the need to refresh his stale notes with the products of recent investigations; and he looks for new ways to approach and treat history. Actually, Carrera Damas sums up this essay with the following comment: "We do not know how a class in history ought to be given, but we have a good idea of what we should have liked to have seen in one."

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*Peru and the United States, 1900-1962.*  
By JAMES C. CAREY. Notre Dame, Indiana, 1964. Notes. Appendix. Bibliographical Note. Index. Pp. 243. \$6.50.

This book purports to be a survey of Peruvian-American relations in the twentieth century, but it really deals, and inadequately, with the 1920s and the period since 1945. The author covers the decade from 1909 to 1919 in eleven pages; here he states that in the first nineteen years of this century Peru followed the lead of the United States but gives no real evidence to support his assertion. The aim of President Augusto B. Leguía, who ruled Peru in the twenties, was to improve his country's relations with the United States. So persistently did he encourage American investment and loans that critics on both the left and right accused him of making Peru too dependent on the United States.

After a chapter on border disputes the author then summarizes the more formal diplomatic relations in the years between 1930 and 1960, noting Peru's cooperation against the Axis. Retracing his steps in the above thirty-year era Carey devotes three chapters to the United States assistance programs, cultural exchange, and investments. With regard to the various services offered Peru, such as education and the loans for the Quiroz project, the author concludes that we helped ourselves while we helped Peru to help itself. But he thinks that the Peruvians believe that American private investment has not worked as a positive factor in the overall relations between Washington and Lima. Finally he gives the pros and cons of the Nixon visit to Peru.

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*Arguedas, Alcides. Etapas de la Vida de un Escritor.* By MOISÉS ALCÁZAR. La Paz, 1963. Talleres Gráficos Bolivianos. Pp. 399.

Historian, novelist, sociologist, diplomat, as well as one of the better known

Bolivian authors, Alcides Arguedas died in 1946 after a successful writing career. His literary record includes a number of published works and a greater number unpublished, among which is a diary of twelve typewritten volumes. The present work is a collection of excerpts from that diary with prologue and notations by the Bolivian writer Moisés Alcázar. Additional volumes will follow.

Although Arguedas willed that his diary remain unpublished until fifty years after his death, his heirs permitted the present volume with the provision that identification be omitted whenever the reference is unfavorable to persons still living. In spite of the limitations imposed, the result provides a glimpse of the intellectual, the philosopher, the public moralist with the foresight of the historian, who has dedicated his observations to posterity as marginal notes to contemporary events. Highly political in content, the varied subjects include some of the author's letters to Bolivian public figures, observations on trips abroad, and essays on historical and other Bolivian personalities. Of special interest is Arguedas' account of the meeting with Bolivian President Germán Busch, who attacked and physically injured him for an open letter which he had written. Arguedas also left his thoughts on the revolution of 1943 and the events which led to the overthrow of the Villarroel regime three years later.

As a sample of what future volumes may bring, there is promise of extensive material for the historian, the political scientist, and the sociologist, as well as an indication of the tortuous political development of Bolivia and the environment of contrasts in which it takes place.

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#### THE PLATA REGION

*Domingo Soriano Sarmiento y su tocayo.*  
By CÉSAR H. GUERRERO. San Juan, 1962. Archivo Histórico y Admin-

istrativo. Revista de Historia. Illustrations. Notes. Pp. 98. Paper.

Those who are interested in new data about the great Argentine educator and president, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, will find little in this book beyond a few notes on the relationship between his family and that of his cousin and namesake, Domingo Soriano Sarmiento and five letters to the young man. In these letters Sarmiento offers advice to his former pupil on the educational opportunities available in Chile, recounts some of his own experiences in that country, and suggests a program of activities worthy of the attention of the new San Juan Literary Society. He also gives a "sermon on conjugal duties," which remains as tantalizingly incomplete as it was when published earlier in the review, *Nosotros*, considers the possibility of proper administration of justice in a provincial town, and hints of new political developments in which Urquiza is to be involved. The rest of this little volume is a brief biography of Don Domingo Soriano Sarmiento, whose activities were largely confined to his native province of San Juan and are accordingly of local rather than general interest.

Written by the director of the Archivo Histórico y Administrativo of San Juan, the volume is another of the many studies in which Argentina paid homage to Domingo Faustino Sarmiento in the 1961 sesquicentennial celebration of the anniversary of his birth.

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*Historia del vasallaje en el Plata.*  
By ALFREDO LLANOS. Buenos Aires, 1963. Editorial Devenir. Pp. 91.

Llanos' work can best be described as an essay designed to cast doubt on the veracity of H. S. Ferns, *Britain and Argentina in the Nineteenth Century*. The theme attributes to England's merchants a definite program to reduce Argentina to economic vassalage. They could accomplish this program because of the willingness of the Argentine