

memory and to touch the pulse of the vital present. Some measure of his success in this endeavor is evidenced in the fact that the chapters of the work first appeared serially in the literary supplement of *La Prensa* and were then gathered together in the present volume.

For the alien reader, however, who might like to open a closet door or two and see what is behind the Argentine façade this work will be of little help. The more attractive aspects of the land, its people, and its history are here, but they are so swathed in pink cotton candy that the sometimes harsher reality is too effectively obscured. Probably this picture of Argentina will disappoint the pragmatist while it will send the romanticist into raptures.

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*The Gaucho Martín Fierro*. By JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ. English Version by C. E. WARD. Introduction by CARLOS ALBERTO ASTIZ. Illustrations by ANTONIO BERNI. Albany, 1967. State University of New York Press. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. xvii, 507. \$10.00.

The State University of New York Press can be complimented warmly for making available such a handsome edition of *Martín Fierro*. It is bilingual—in a style of type easily read. The Spanish appears on one side of the page, English on the other. Notes are placed conveniently on the bottom of the page, not in the back of the book. There are seven illustrations by the noted Argentine artist, Antonio Berni. And a bibliography is included to help the student to begin his studies on *Martín Fierro*.

The reproduction of Berni's striking illustrations should be lamented. Considering the importance of the artist and the poem, more care should have been taken to bring out the shades and tones in the drawings. It is perhaps the major flaw, and an important one, in an otherwise impressive edition.

A final criticism concerns the intro-

duction. Astiz, who is a political scientist, refrains from extolling the literary merits of *Martín Fierro*, but he might well have commented on those political and social conditions about which the protagonist of the story complained so strongly—for example, the political and military institutions of the Argentine frontier or the policies of Presidents Sarmiento and Avellaneda with regard to the Indians, to public lands, and to *caudillismo*.

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*Popper: un conquistador patagónico. Sus hazañas, sus escritos*. By BOLES LAO LEWIN. Buenos Aires, 1967. Editorial Candelabro. Illustrations. Notes. Pp. 231. Paper.

Julius Popper, a Rumanian engineer of Jewish descent, explored Tierra del Fuego between 1885 and 1893 and was a famous miner during the archipelago's short-lived gold boom. Most significant works on Tierra del Fuego discuss his exploits in brief. The subject of occasional journalistic articles in the Buenos Aires press, Popper has also received some scholarly attention from the Fuegian historian Armando Braun Menéndez. Boleslao Lewin, better known for his works on Jews in colonial Latin America, has maintained an interest in Popper for more than a decade.

*Popper: un conquistador patagónico* consists of biographical information coupled with excerpts from the explorer's writings reprinted without comment. The first of the book's two sections contains a series of topical sketches outlining such interesting facets of Popper's career as his feuds with territorial governors and Chilean prospectors. Unaware of judicial documentation, Lewin still relies heavily on data which he has published in several previous articles on Popper. Despite these shortcomings, this work merits some attention from the mini-audience interested in Popper and the Fireland. New material gathered from newspapers of the period and from Rumanian

sources enable Lewin to present a more realistic appraisal of Popper's background. Not only are Popper's activities during his first months in Argentina unraveled for the first time in print, but Lewin also supplies us with an interesting interpretation that links Popper's meteoric rise to fame to his membership in the Masonic Order.

Unfortunately, Lewin focuses his attention on Popper, the man of action, rather than on the larger context of Argentina's economic boom during the Generation of Eighty within which the career of the enigmatic explorer must be understood. Nor has Lewin achieved full impartiality. There is no evidence to warrant his conclusions that Popper was genuinely dedicated to his colonizing activities, or that he was more interested in science than in material wealth. Some foundation does exist, however, for his lament that the absence of Popper's name among the landmarks of Tierra del Fuego "is proof of an injustice" (p. 33). In all, Lewin's biographical section does not greatly amplify that of Braun Menéndez' in 1936.

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*Quase política*. 2nd ed. By GILBERTO FREYRE. Introduction by MUNHOZ DA ROCHA. Rio de Janeiro, 1966. Livraria José Olímpio Editora. Obras reunidas de Gilberto Freyre. Notes. Appendix. Index. Pp. xxxv, 289. Paper.

This is the second edition of Gilberto Freyre's *Quase política*. The first edition appeared in 1950, and consisted of ten items (nove discursos e uma conferência), all of which are to be found in the present volume. The volume begins with a flattering twenty-four page introduction by Munhoz da Rocha, Professor of Anthropology in the Federal University of Paraná. It continues with nineteen *discursos*, two *conferências*, and an appendix.

The *discursos* are more or less extended remarks by Freyre in the Bra-

zilian National Chamber of Deputies during his term as deputy from Pernambuco, 1946-1950, and include *apartés* by Luís Carlos Prestes, Paul Pilla and other notables. Of the two *conferências*, one was given at the death of Ulysses Pernambuco de Mello; the other was in honor of Joaquim Nabuco. The appendix is an essay on the subject of the relation of the Armed Forces and other forces relative to national security and development. It is based upon two speeches given in 1965 and in essence defends the military intervention of April 1964.

Most of the material in the *discursos* is of ephemeral interest and shows Freyre as able, suave in compliments and, for an academic, adroit in debate. In the two *conferências*, his florid style familiar to readers of *Casa Grande e Senzala*, seems well suited to the subjects at hand. An example is a sentence from his speech honoring the centenary of Joaquim Nabuco: (He is referring to Nabuco's *patrono de Academia mestre*, Antônio Peregrino Maciel Monteiro, the Baron of Itamaracá) "If the title of *fidalgo* did not free the illustrious mestizo of the malicious nickname of 'bode cheiroso,' it augmented his prestige among the women who wore dresses of silk, glad to be courted by barons, even mestizos."

The essay takes the form of an answer to American (North American) critics of the new Brazilian order; he calls these Americans "innocents," and states categorically that to speak of Brazilian militarism is "simply ridiculous." He characterizes as ingenuous those who believe the "demagogic fictions" of Alceu Amorosa Lima, and says that they lack familiarity with the history of Brazil. He is much kinder in his assessment of the work of Americans such as John J. Johnson and Edwin Lieuwen, and quotes with approval a comment of Frank Tannenbaum in *Ten Keys to Latin America* that the army in both Argentina and Brazil was "the only secular institution that has had a national outlook." He does go on to say that he is not "one of those who is ashamed of com-