

## BOOK NOTICES

Initialed notices were written by William B. Cohen, James H. Kellar, John V. Lombardi, Bradford G. Martin, David M. Pletcher, and G. Robertson Dilg, all of Indiana University.

*Bibliographie de l'Espagnol d'Amérique.* By JACQUES LAPOINTE. Dakar, 1968. Université de Dakar. Centre de Hautes Études Afro-Ibéro-Américaines. Pp. 105. Paper.

This extensive bibliography of works on American Spanish should prove a useful reference tool. Although not exhaustive, it covers the major works and many minor ones in the field. Organized by country, the book unfortunately lacks an introduction explaining the selection criteria. In spite of these shortcomings, the bibliography is a welcome addition to Latin American reference shelves.

J. V. L.

*A Journey in Brazil.* By LOUIS and ELIZABETH AGASSIZ. Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Notes. Illustrations. Appendices. Pp. x, xix, 540. \$22.50.

*Journal of a Residence in Chile, during the Year 1822. And a Voyage from Chile to Brazil in 1823.* By MARIA DUNDAS GRAHAM (LADY MARIA CALCOTT). Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Notes. Illustrations. Appendices. Pp. viii, 512. \$23.50.

*Journal of a Voyage to Brazil, and Residence There, during Part of the Years 1821, 1822, 1823.* By MARIA DUNDAS GRAHAM (LADY MARIA CALCOTT). Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Notes. Illustrations. Appendix. Pp. viii, vii, 335. \$18.50.

*A Trip to Cuba.* By JULIA WARD HOWE. Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Pp. x, iv, 251. \$13.50.

*Notes on Mexico, Made in the Autumn of 1822. Accompanied by an Historical Sketch of the Revolution, and Translations of Official Reports on the Present State of That Country.* By JOEL ROBERTS POINSETT. Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Notes. Tables. Appendices. Index. Pp. xi, viii, 359. \$17.50.

*The Reports on the Present State of the United Provinces of South America; Drawn Up by Messrs. Rodney and Graham, Commissioners Sent to Buenos Ayres by the Government of North America, And Laid before the Congress of the United States.* By C. A. RODNEY and JOHN GRAHAM. Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Map. Tables. Appendices. Pp. xviii, viii, 358. \$17.50.

*Notes on Central America; Particularly the States of Honduras and San Salvador: Their Geography, Topography, Climate, Population, Resources, Productions, etc., and the Proposed Honduras Inter-oceanic Railway.* By EPHRAIM G. SQUIER. Introduction by A. CURTIS WILGUS. New York, 1969. Frederick A. Praeger. Notes. Illustrations. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. x, xvi, 397. \$20.00.

Leisurely travel accounts like these are apt to raise a smile in this age of jetliners and intercontinental commuting, but a good deal of our information about conditions in the young Latin American nations comes from just such books—rambling, discursive, sometimes a little wide-eyed but often penetrating and shrewd. Modern photographic processes and the demands of new uni-

versity libraries have led to many reprints, until we now have a wide selection from which to choose.

This is a good sampling of the genre. The original type and illustrations are beautifully reproduced on excellent paper with sturdy bindings—and at fantastic prices which virtually insure that only libraries will be able to purchase the books. Which should they choose, if money is short?

The answer depends in part on the areas in which librarians or professors are interested or the departments for which the books are ordered. Joel R. Poinsett, C. A. Rodney, and John Graham were envoys of the United States government reconnoitering to determine whether Washington should recognize Mexico and Argentina respectively; hence their volumes emphasize politics, markets, and statistics. Ephraim G. Squier, an aggressive American diplomat in Central America who had turned to railroading by the time he wrote his account, resembles them in his interests, but describes a later period, the 1850s. Louis Agassiz, one of America's early biologists, offers detailed, accurate descriptions of flora and fauna, including the two-legged sort, and a colorful picture of Brazilian society in the 1860s.

The three other works were produced by pure travelers. Maria Graham, daughter and wife of British naval officers, spent much of the 1820s in and between Brazil and Chile. Her account of Chile, San Martín, and Cochrane is extremely detailed and vivid; that of Brazil is shorter and more cursory. Julia Ward Howe, despite her famous name, is simply not in the same league with the others. Her chatty, friendly travelogue takes a dim view of Cuban slavery, as one might expect, but it contains no vintage from the grapes of wrath.

My own choice would be Poinsett and Squier for their connection with public affairs and Agassiz and Maria Graham (on Chile) for the richness of their descriptions.

D. M. P.

*The Americas Look at Each Other. Essays on the Culture and Life of the Americas.* By JOSÉ AGUSTÍN BALSEIRO. Translated by MUNA MUÑOZ LEE. Coral Gables, 1969. University of Miami Press. Notes. Index. Pp. 256. \$7.95.

Authors are not necessarily responsible for the dust jackets of their books, but a serious reader may feel a slight malaise when he sees two animistic sun symbols with faces, substituting for the two letters O in the word *Look* on the cover of *The Americas Look at Each Other*. His suspicion becomes a tremor of doubt when he finds on the inside of the jacket a blurb about the author by Havelock Ellis. Ellis was a leader in a field which may be defined as prescientific sexology; he died in 1939 at the age of eighty. Something seems to be wrong.

What is wrong is this collection of essays. The first one gives the flavor of the whole book—"Lord Byron's South American Dream and the Greatness of Simón Bolívar." An impossible task results in an impossible essay. "What would Byron have thought of Bolívar and Bolívar of Byron, and how well would these two geniuses have understood each other, had they ever met and spoken" (p. 35)? Who can say? The author spares himself the trouble of an answer by proceeding immediately to discuss Alexander Pope.

The second essay provides the title of the book, but it is rightly placed second, because it is inferior to the first essay. How is this possible? Whereas the first essay attempted to relate only two historically unrelated people, the second essay sets out to relate two or three dozen, from Cotton Mather to Milton Eisenhower.

The third and fourth essays deal inevitably with Rubén Darío and the United States, referring pointedly to Ariels and Calibans and adjuring: "Let Not Hate Shoot Its Bolt." Further on a few lines in the book express sentiments worthy of their subjects, Alfonso Reyes and Gabriela Mistral. That's about all.

To return for a moment to the dust