

Spanish Texas. In fact, the noted *Handbook of Texas* contains many inaccuracies about the governors of the province while it was under Spanish rule.

Félix Almaráz' *Tragic Cavalier*, a biography of Manuel María de Salcedo, governor from November 1808 to April 1813, will serve as an excellent guide for subsequent studies of this neglected period. Salcedo's early years are consigned to a footnote, for the emphasis is on his years as governor. After a brief introductory chapter on the settlement and growth of Texas to 1808, Almaráz traces his subject's arrival in Texas, the military and political condition of the province at that time, his relationship with his uncle, Nemesio Salcedo, the commandant general of the Eastern Interior Provinces, and Texas' problems with its eastern neighbor, the United States. Most revealing of Almaráz' deep knowledge of his subject is his chapter on social conditions in Texas from 1808 to 1810; herein he traces the problem created by the royal monopoly on paper, he shows how royal funds for the province were expended and how the post office operated (or failed to work), he details the medical service that was available, and he demonstrates how thorny church-state relationships were. Next came the tragi-comic Las Casas Revolt of 1811 and the successful counter-revolution restoring Salcedo to his governorship, to be capped in 1813 when Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara invaded Texas, captured the provincial leaders, executed them (including Salcedo), and established a short-lived "republic." A final chapter summarizes events in Spanish Texas to 1821.

Almaráz proves conclusively that Salcedo, while working under severe bureaucratic handicaps, was an innovative administrator and a strong governor—contrary to the picture previously painted of him by historians. Soundly documented and written in pleasant style, this volume is sound, scholarly, handsomely printed, and very readable; in sum, it is a book about Texas and Texans which hopefully will inspire other such works about the Spanish period and which will serve as a guide for them.

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Simon Bolivar. By GERHARD MASUR. 2d. ed. Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1969. University of New Mexico Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 574. Cloth. \$15.00.

When this work appeared in 1948, Charles C. Griffin (in his review in the *HAHR*, 29:4 [November, 1949], 591) called it ". . . the most convincing Bolívar within the pages of any one book." Ever since, it has served many as a basic profile of the *Libertador* in English.

The second edition, issued more than twenty years after the first, might well have reflected in its pages the mass of new documentation and studies about Bolívar which have seen print since 1946. It does not. Professor Masur disclaims (in a Note to this edition) any fundamental change in his interpretation of his subject, while averring that he has tried to correct whatever errors were made in the first.

There has been some textual revision, including a new first chapter, and the English (in places) is smoother, but Masur's *Bolívar* is the same. The protagonist, in its pages, moves from one scene to another, pitted against Miranda (self-seeking adventurer), Marino (irresponsible), Páez (inconstant), Santander (hypocritical), and a number of other lesser *dramatis personae*, who by their faults heighten the virtues of Bolívar. Mirroring its sources, what emerges is a nineteenth-century style episodic biography.

This might be acceptable to some. What is not, is the point that in more than a few cases, the sources cited in the footnotes are not always in agreement as to facts or topics alleged as being in the originals. (See Chapter 3, notes 3, 9, 14, 19; Chapter 4, notes 10 and 11, for example). Nor are some of the English translations faithful to their Spanish originals (Chapter 3, page 34, lines 2-5; Chapter 7, page 87, lines 27-43, are examples).

Furthermore, an incredible number of spelling errors remain intact from the first edition, both in the text and much more so in the footnotes and bibliographic apparatus. The reader is told in the Preface that he must accept an accentless hero, "Simon Bolivar," from there on. But do so many of the other actors and places in the drama that follows have to be stripped (without authorial warning or regard for Spanish orthography) naked of their accents?

As if to add insult to injury, the Bibliography and list of Abbreviations (unaccountably placed *after* the citations it was supposed to explicate) are a composite of inaccuracies and misinformation so grievous as to terminate the career of any graduate student who might commit them. It is deplorable indeed that a work which, despite its faults, remains our most convenient English-language biography of Bolívar has seen so little improvement in two decades.

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