

tilated as to cast doubt on his reliability in handling source material of this kind without special training. Given a topic as potentially rewarding, and Mayer's obvious promise as a Mexicanist, some formal training in paleography would seem justified.

State University of New York,
Buffalo

PETER BOYD-BOWMAN

José Miguel de Tagle: Un comerciante americano de los siglos XVII y XIX. By LILIAN BETTY ROMERO CABRERA. Córdoba, 1973. Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. Charts. Bibliography. Documents. Pp. XI, 182.

José Miguel de Tagle was a successful creole merchant from northern Argentina whose long life (1756–1846) witnessed the end of the viceroyalty and the painful adjustments to independence. His correspondence reveals how he adapted to the changing political and commercial environment, and what prospects a creole merchant had in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Beginning as a royal tax collector and *situadista* in Jujuy and Potosí in the 1780s, Tagle later became associated with an important Spanish merchant, José Martínez de Hoz who lived in Buenos Aires. Tagle continued to travel throughout the interior to handle Martínez de Hoz' business affairs, in the same way he had travelled for the crown. Eventually Tagle found it convenient to relocate in Córdoba, where he married into the local aristocracy. There he remained until his death in 1846.

The Tagle-Martínez de Hoz correspondence provides valuable economic data on trade in the Argentine interior during these crucial moments, and the letters have been carefully reprinted in their entirety. Lilians Betty Romero Cabrera's careful introduction traces Tagle's family and business background, and summarizes the content of the documentary appendix. Though it is left to others to analyze the data, the Instituto de Estudios Americanistas and Lilians Betty Romero Cabrera have offered a useful contribution to the study of the impact of independence in the Argentine interior.

D.J.G.

A History of the Chilean Boundaries. By ROBERT D. TALBOTT. Ames, 1974. The Iowa State University Press. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 134. Paper.

Boundary disputes provided the fuel for many diplomatic flareups in nineteenth-century southern South America. The discovery of untapped resources and new ways to utilize neglected lands encouraged Chile to pursue negotiations that would give her the Atacama Desert, the Strait of Magellan and valleys nestled in the Andes. Since her actions affected Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, an examination of these boundary disputes should help reconstruct the texture of inter-American relations in this region. Robert D. Talbott hoped to do this in his *History of the Chilean Boundaries*. Unfortunately, he has merely outlined the disputes without either delving into previous explanations or offering evidence to support new interpretations. He used his extensive bibliography of published