
This series of reminiscences, originally appearing in the conservative literary review, La Estrella de Chile, in 1872, when the author was seventy years old, contains two broad types of material. The first group, and for me the most interesting, treats of various aspects of social life in Santiago. They deal with such subjects as clothing styles, house construction, and the place of fish in the Chilean diet; cafés, inns, and dancehalls; sanitation and public safety in the city; and music, theater, and dance. There is also an interesting recollection of Zapiola's primary education, an education cut short in 1814 when his school was converted into a royalist barracks. These "local color" essays should prove useful in rounding out the picture of life in Santiago in the early part of the nineteenth century as sketched by foreign visitors.

The second group of essays are mainly of historiographical value. In one series Zapiola, a political conservative, battles José Victorino Lastarria and Federico Errázuriz, over the nature of the liberal regime of the late 1820s, the revolution of 1829–1830, and Diego Portales. In the other series he recalls controversial political events taking place between 1810 and the early 1820s. They were written, as were almost all of his essays, without any greater scholarly resources than the memory of events which had happened fifty years earlier. Their primary value is in showing us how politicians of the early 1870s viewed crucial events in the country's immediate past.

This printing, which includes Ventura Blanco's 1872 introduction and Zapiola's foreword to the fourth (1881–1882) issue, is enhanced by Tupper's essay placing Zapiola in the literary and political context of mid-nineteenth-century Chile. A series of watercolors, unfortunately reproduced in black and white, adds a visual dimension to his local color essays. The last printing of this book was done thirty years ago. The current reissue should be welcomed by students of Chilean history and all historians interested in nineteenth-century social history.

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Argentina and Perón, 1970–1975 is a compilation of chronological entries that trace the economic and political repercussions of the prelude to and the consequences of Perón's return to Argentina. Based upon an impartial synthesis of European, Latin American and United States newspaper accounts, this new addition to the Facts on File series will be a handy reference tool for Latin Americanists interested in contemporary Argentina.

D.J.G.