BOOK NOTICES

The author’s introduction is useful for students of late colonial thought and potential biographers of Baquijano will profit from its perceptive analysis. With a facsimile edition of the Mercurio readily available, however, reprinting the “Dissertation” seems unnecessary.

University of Missouri

MARK A. BURKHOLDER


The last decade or so saw a rapid increase of interest in painting in Brazil. Among the beneficiaries of this trend was a generation of naïf artists who suddenly gained considerable popularity and long overdue respect. Professor Rodman’s book is a good introduction to the life and work of these painters and sculptors. The volume contains interesting information on the personal characteristics of the artists and is abundantly illustrated with plates (some in color) of their canvasses and carvings.

This short volume, however, is not as comprehensive or as representative as readers interested in Brazilian naïf art would have the right to expect. First, the author makes no reference to the work of certain important naïf artists. Conspicuously absent from the book is a discussion of the work of Crisaldo Morais, a leading figure in the Brazilian naïf art movement and acclaimed by Brazilian and European critics as the best Brazilian naïf painter. Second, the works which are included in the book, although excellent in quality, are not enough to represent the best phases of the artists concerned. The book would be enriched, for example, by the addition of Neuton Andrade’s “Wedding on an Ox-cart,” Elza O. S.’s springlike “Eva,” and one of Crisaldo Morais’ beautiful “Noahs.”

University of Arizona

GERALD CARDOSO


This edited collection of documents and secondary sources is an admittedly nationalistic vindication of the first great dictator of Paraguay. Compiled from archival sources in Paraguay and Buenos Aires, and from contemporary accounts by both enemies and supporters—Paraguayans and foreigners—the editor proclaims Paraguay’s debt to Doctor José Gaspar de Francia as that figure guided the new nation through the troubled early 1800s. A multitude of topics is presented: the dictator’s early life; Paraguayan society before, during, and after independence; Francia’s views on government, society, culture, foreign relations, trade and the Church; and his enemies’ reactions to his rise and governance of Paraguay. While the selections and commentary place Francia in the best light, contemporary criticism of the dictator is included, but in a manner which sustains the contention that Doctor Francia has been poorly treated by history.