

Beverage of the Gods,” summarizes what little is known of the myth and reality of chocolate’s origins. Harwich identifies the particular characteristics of cacao as food, medicine, and money, and outlines the early commercialization of production as it shifted from Soconusco to Izalcos, and then in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to Venezuela. Much of the discussion is descriptive, based on well-known sources, and it offers little that is new to Latin American historians.

The second stage, “The Industrial Horizon,” begins with a botanical description of cacao and the problems of planting and harvesting, then turns to the question of mechanization. New technologies led to the increased availability of traditional chocolate beverages and to new powders, syrups, and candies that would dominate the twentieth-century market. Control over these markets has been maintained by a small group of companies—Hershey and Mars in the United States, Cadbury and Rowntree in England, Nestlé in Switzerland—names that have become synonymous with the product. The commercialization of production was accompanied by expansion of cacao plantations in Ecuador, Brazil, and the Caribbean, which threatened but did not end the dominance of Venezuela. That end came in the twentieth century, as West African and Asian production surpassed that of Latin America. Section 3, “The Time of Chocolate,” details the rise in production and efforts to stabilize prices. It also includes recent data on consumption, chocolate fads, and nutritional information.

As chocolate became more commercialized, the traditional centers of production in Latin America lost ground to new producers. Spain, the major consumer of chocolate into the eighteenth century, became marginalized as the main centers of demand moved north of the Pyrenees and then across the Atlantic. Careful attention to shifting demand and its impact on Hispanic countries would have made this study more interesting to Latin American historians.

Histoire du chocolat is helpful as an introduction to the historical significance of cacao and its products. It has the advantage of presenting chocolate as a food that has multiple social, economic, cultural, and regional implications. In that sense it serves its purpose. Readers searching for a focused analysis of the historical changes in production, distribution, and consumption of cacao will have to look elsewhere.

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Bello and Bolívar: Poetry and Politics in the Spanish American Revolution. By ANTONIO CUSSEN. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. Appendix. Notes. Bibliographical essay. Index. xiii, 208 pp. Cloth. \$49.95.

Literary criticism has such a bad reputation—as an art of esoteric hair-splitting—among the practitioners of other disciplines that a historian may hesitate to open a book with poetry in the title appearing in a literary studies series. In this case,

however, such hesitation is soon overcome. Antonio Cussen writes clearly and succinctly, and generally holds one's interest even when he is wringing political significance, as he does with some frequency, from Andrés Bello's views on Roman literature.

Cussen's own surprisingly lucid ventures into literary criticism seem quite plausible, though a professor of Spanish (or Latin) might better pass final judgment in this respect. The specialist in history will applaud Cussen's persistent effort to put literary analysis into historical context. True, the historiographical underpinnings of the study are not its strongest point. The historical sources cited are curiously scattered and are often dated; an extreme example is the citing of a work by Diego Barros Arana and Miguel Luis Amunátegui, reprinted in Havana in 1967, in support of a highly misleading discussion of ecclesiastical censos during the revolutionary period (p. 121). One can quarrel with other points of historical background too, but these are usually of quite minor importance.

Cussen states frankly in the preface that the book is written from Bello's perspective, not Bolívar's. He does devote space to the Liberator's own foray into literary criticism of Bello, but for the rest Bolívar enters intermittently into the discussion as reference point or foil. One does not, in the end, learn much, if anything, new about Bolívar himself. On the other hand, Cussen presents a view of Bello that may not be new in its broad outline but is full of nuances based on textual analysis of Bello's poetry and prose—almost as much of the latter as of the former, despite the title. We see an educated creole, whose true preference was for enlightened reformism under Spanish rule, ultimately forced to embrace outright independence; and a constitutional monarchist who accepted with misgivings the inevitability of liberal republicanism. There were undoubtedly many more such reluctant patriots than are identified as such in the standard history texts. Nor would it be easy to find a more perfect exemplar of conservative liberalism—or liberal conservatism—than what Bello in his Chilean exile finally became. Curiously, the book never mentions the one thing most historians will first associate with Bello's name: his role in Chilean legal codification. But then law codes probably do not have much in common with poetry.

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Ciudad de Guatemala: dos estudios sobre su evolución urbana (1524–1950). By GISELA GELLERT and J. C. PINTO SORIA. Guatemala City: Editorial Universitaria, 1992. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. 81 pp. Paper.

This brief, pioneering effort, comprising two studies conducted under the auspices of the Centro de Estudios Urbanos y Regionales (CEUR) at the University of San Carlos, is a welcome foray into the little-explored field of Central American urban history. In looking at the history of Guatemala City from its foundation in the late