

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

sources to document dates, not issues. In so doing, he missed an opportunity to provide a valuable contribution to the literature on this subject.

D.J.G.

*Diário da assembleia geral constituinte e legislativa do Imperio do Brasil, 1823.* Vol. I in two parts and Vol. II. By SENADO FEDERAL. Introduction by PEDRO CALMON. Brasília, 1973. Senado Federal Centro Gráfico. Facsimile. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 381; 383-744; 408; 29.

This paper-bound photographic reproduction of the journal of the primarily legislative General Assembly of 1823 was commissioned as part of the sesquicentennial celebration of Brazilian independence in 1972. Though the Assembly had been called prior to September of 1822, it was unable to meet until after the break with Portugal had been accomplished. Part of its task was thus to draft a constitution, but it was a later body that was to produce the Constitution of 1824. Thus, as its exhortative introduction points out, this is an important record. The addition of a list of the delegates, usually with some biographical information about the more renowned, is helpful; however, what made this record more accessible did not make it more tractable. The type is unclear and the printing is of uneven quality. The original index alphabetizes by first names and by the first words of topic titles; it does, however, include commission reports and a list of each deputy's proposals. The journal's usefulness would be greatly enhanced by the availability of material on the legislation that was in effect at the time and on the subsequent laws and decrees that were passed and implemented. These tend to be found in graduate libraries, for which this item can be recommended.

Austin, Texas

DAVID PARKER

*Tradicionalismo e contra-revolução. O pensamento e a acção de José da Gama e Castro.* By LUÍS MANUEL REIS TORGAL. Coimbra, 1973. Universidade de Coimbra. Appendices. Index. Pp. xvii, 353. Paper.

Gama e Castro followed Dom Miguel into exile on December 19, 1834, and successively directed the anti-Liberal and pro-Absolutist offensive from Italy, Rio de Janeiro, and Paris. His *O novo príncipe ou o espírito dos governos monárquicos* (Rio de Janeiro, 1841) is the last great treatise in Portuguese on political absolutism.

Liberalism was his *bête noir*, and he saw the day when the new system would be superseded by absolute monarchies, even in the United States and in Brazil. For him absolute monarchy was the only possible form of good government in the Western world. He believed that history was a grand Natural Process that unfolded in harmony with immutable Divine Laws, and changes that took place within the context of the Divine Plan were to be welcomed. He castigated the French Revolution precisely because it had not respected the evolutionary process but attempted instead to force the world to move in leaps and bounds.

It is important to have this view of the Counter-Revolution in Portugal (ineffectual though it was on the practical level), and the pity is that Torgal, too