archival guides and collections, bibliography, historiography, and general history. These are followed by a periodization which includes preconquest, conquest and colonial, independence, Gran Colombia, and the republic. Another major section is organized thematically. Other divisions include sections on Church, military, cultural, and regional history. The author and subject indexes are most helpful. No student of Ecuador should be without this bibliography.

G.A.B.


This is the twentieth volume in the Latin American Historical Dictionaries Series edited by A. Curtis Wilgus. The quality and usefulness of the volumes has varied greatly during the ten-year period in which the series has been published. The volume on Colombia by Robert H. Davis was of high quality and proved to be a handy, helpful reference. The dictionary under consideration here does not meet the high standards set by Davis and others who have contributed to the series. The brevity of this dictionary on Peru (compared to that on Honduras, for example) gives the reader pause to wonder what purpose the author, editor, and publisher had in mind. The definitions account for only slightly over 100 pages of text. Moreover, one might well question the utility and purpose of including some of the definitions. The term *mesa,* for example, is defined in the context of furniture and as a "polling place." This is hardly news to anyone familiar with the rudiments of Spanish or even the slightest acquaintance with the Latin American electoral process. We also learn that *fresco* is a term used in Andean towns for a "cold drink made of sugar and fruit juice," and that in larger towns it becomes *refresco* or *gaseoso.* Finally comes the revelation that *paja* means straw and that the word is used to refer to a straw hat. In short, this dictionary is strong on *paja* and weak on history.

G.A.B.


The Bourbon penchant for historical glorification began the chain of events that led to the Rich Collection in the New York Public Library. Charles III commissioned Juan Bautista Muñoz to gather documents and write a history of the Indies in the late eighteenth century. Muñoz' materials were sold to Henri Ternaux de Compans who eventually sold them to the book collector, Obadiah Rich. Rich added some of Lord Kingsborough's papers to the collection and sold the lot to James Lenox of New York. When Lenox' library was absorbed by the New York Public Library, Rich's name adhered to the collection.

The inventory follows the documentary "sets," 102 in number; the indexes are arranged for names, chronology, and titles. Nearly sixty percent of the collection deals with the sixteenth century, ten percent with the seventeenth, and the remainder with the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Most of colonial Latin America is represented although the majority of the collection deals with New Spain and Peru.

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