

## Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma

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### Review

Reviewed Work(s): Documentos lingüísticos del Alto Aragón by Tomás Navarro

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his tutor, Luanco, and correspondence relating to the senatorial elections are published for the first time. Menéndez Pelayo's appreciation of the Asturian poet, Jovellanos, and a selection of his opinions on other provincial figures are the subjects of individual chapters. The author had the assistance of Enrique Sánchez Reyes, director of the Menéndez Pelayo Library of Santander.

David Sanders  
University of Maryland

riod. An analysis of the phonological and morphological development of the language based on these documents, which was to accompany the text, disappeared from the author's home during the Civil War days in Spain. One could not expect to surpass the author's analysis which is lost to us forever, but the material awaits some young scholar to fill the gap.

Daniel N. Cárdenas  
University of Chicago

✎ Alvaro Alonso-Castrillo. *Estados Unidos, país en revolución permanente*. Madrid. Instituto de Estudios Políticos. 1956. 143 pages. 35 ptas.

This is an excellent and knowledgeable introduction to American politics. The author begins by tracing the development of the American party system. He describes and analyzes American electoral processes, and he illuminates the basic political forces that are operating to shape present and future developments. Among these forces he includes the philosophical principles of the continuing American Revolution, the federalization of American political parties (and the resulting need for moderation and compromise), the problem of the South, and the development of the new American middle class, whose political decisions, expressed through a fluid and dynamic party system, will be decisive for the future of both American and world politics. A comprehensive and sophisticated analysis within a brief compass.

John Houston  
Knox College

✎ Tomás Navarro. *Documentos lingüísticos del Alto Aragón*. Syracuse, N. Y. Syracuse University Press. 1957. ix + 231 pages. \$10.

This valuable collection, which consists of one hundred fifty documents from the Alto Aragón region dated from 1255 to 1494, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the author's philological endeavors. His initial publication was precisely a commentary on some of these documents which appeared in *Memoria de la Junta para ampliación de estudios e investigaciones científicas*, Madrid, 1907.

The intrinsic value of this collection, aside from the fact that the author has painstakingly transcribed the original texts, lies in the wealth of material for dialectal research on medieval Aragonese as well as for an insight into some aspects of life and customs of that pe-

✎ Vicente Vega, comp. *Diccionario ilustrado de anécdotas*. Barcelona. Gili. 1957. xii + 1,077 pages, ill.

The compiler of this storehouse of anecdotes takes them very seriously, believing that, while they do not have to be true, it is a good thing if they are, since they can shed light on history as well as lend brightness to conversation. These more than 3,300 anecdotes range, in time, from the age of Alexander the Great to that of Winston Churchill, Ortega y Gasset, and André Gide, and are as different as the individuals they concern. While there is humor in some of them, there is also wit, bitterness, and tragedy. Old favorites are included, as are less known and more recent stories. The lion's share went to Napoleon with 51 anecdotes of which he was the subject, followed by Antonio Cánovas del Castillo (!) with 34, Louis XIV of France with 33, and a tie between Alfonso XIII and Santiago Rusiñol at 32. The selection may have been made on the basis of availability.

In arrangement, the anecdotes are numbered consecutively and placed under alphabetized key words with cross references to related material. Broad interpretation of the words, such as "Independence," either economic or of the spirit, permits the inclusion of a variety of anecdotes. Credit is given only when a printed text was used and author and source could be cited. Appended are indexes of personal names, cities, and events, of phrases and sayings, and of illustrations. The volume is lavishly illustrated with photographs of persons, paintings, and places. However, some of those of persons (e.g., Goethe, Mozart, Milton, García Lorca) are not good.

The material is well organized, and from the index it is possible to locate all the anecdotes relating to a particular person, while all those pertaining to one theme (e.g., *belicoidad*) are to be found under the word, dictionary-style.

B. G. D.