

Gustavo Adolfo Otero (1896-1958)

CHARLES W. ARNADE

Gustavo Adolfo Otero was born on September 8, 1896, into a well-to-do patrician family of La Paz, Bolivia. In 1913 he graduated from the Colegio Nacional de Ayacucho and later attended the University of San Andrés in his home town. His first important position was that of Secretary of the Bureau of Statistics and Geographical Studies. In the late twenties Otero entered the diplomatic service, being stationed in Europe and America. At the time of his death he was Bolivian ambassador to Ecuador. At periods he was associated with the academic world, usually by service in the University of San Andrés. In 1937 he was founder of the *Revista de Bolivia* which he edited until its termination.

Gustavo Adolfo Otero was best known for his extensive writings which covered a wide range from satire, drama, and novels to sociology, political science, geography and history. He had a fast pen with a superb style and a penetrating journalistic punch. His historical productions lacked prolonged research and often had erroneous passages. Yet he popularized the history of his country which merits praise. In 1947 the editors of *Kollasuyo* (no. 65, p. 52) said that "Otero without question is the most important writer of today's generation." He was often an excited nationalist, belonging to the indigenous movement that in today's Bolivia has been translated from theory into political, economic, and social realities. In 1957 the Bolivian Government awarded Otero the "Gran Premio Nacional de Literatura" in spite of the fact that he was in voluntary exile in Ecuador.

Otero's bibliography is lengthy. Listed as books are productions that range from slim to a voluminous size. The following is a selection of his books. No attempt has been made to list his numerous articles which would enlarge the bibliography considerably. Sometimes he published his books under the pseudonym Nola Beaz.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
GUSTAVO ADOLFO OTERO*

1919

1. *Biografías de hombres célebres de Bolivia*. With MOISES ASCARRUNZ and BELISARIO DIAZ ROMERO. La Paz.

1920

2. *Cabezas*. La Paz.

1921

3. *El honorable Poroto; estudio crítico-biográfico, troglodita, funambulésco sesquipedal, cómico, y político de este notable hombre público*. La Paz. Talleres Gráficos "La Prensa" de J. L. Calderón. Pp. 152.

1922

4. *El Chile que yo he visto*. 2nd ed. La Paz. Imprenta Artística. Pp. viii, 216.

1923

5. *Cuestión del ambiente*. La Paz. E. Riccio. Pp. 344.

1925

6. *Crestomatía boliviana*. La Paz. Editorial Renacimiento. (Re-edited several times in La Paz and also in Barcelona and Buenos Aires.)
7. *El hombre del tiempo heroico. Esquema de un ensayo psicológico y moral de Antonio José Sucre, gran mariscal de Ayacucho*. La Paz. Editorial "Renacimiento." Bibliography. Pp. 163.

1926

8. *El Perú que yo he visto*. La Paz. Imprenta Artística. Pp. 176.
9. *Las razones del instinto*. With SATURINO RODRIGO. La Paz. [?]
10. *Pitagóricas*. La Paz. Imprenta S. Edelman. Pp. 97.

1927

11. *Abaroa*. La Paz. Talleres "La República." Bibliography. Pp. xxiii, 152.
12. *Bolivia, reseña geográfica y estadística*. Barcelona.

1928

13. *Bolivia y Paraguay*. [?]

1929

14. *Bolivia (guía sinóptica)*. 2nd ed. Barcelona. Editorial Maucci. Illustrations. Maps. Pp. 223.

* Items marked with an asterisk were edited by Gustavo Adolfo Otero.

15. *El hombre y los libros*. Barcelona.
 16. *Notas sobre el comercio de Bolivia*. Barcelona. Imprenta Comercial. Maps. Illustrations. Pp. 128.

1931

17. *Entre llamas*. Barcelona.
 18. *La doctrina de Bolívar y la ideología pacifista de Bolivia*. Barcelona.

1932

19. *Estampas bolivianas*. Barcelona. (Also La Paz, 1948, Gisbert.)

1933

20. *Las atrocidades paraguayas*. Barcelona.
 21. *Horizontes incendiados*. Barcelona. Imprenta Layetana. Pp. 403.

1934

22. 1934. I. *Síntesis espiritual de la época*. III. *La psicología, factor de comprensión humana*. Barcelona. Imprenta Comercial. Pp. 126.

1935

23. *Figura y carácter del indio (los ando-bolivianos)*. Barcelona. Editorial Helios. Plates. Pp. 266.

1936-1941

24. **Biblioteca boliviana*. 10 vols. La Paz. Imprenta Artística. (Included are lengthy introductions by the editor.)
 I. *Crónica moralizada*. By FRAY ANTONIO DE LA CALANCHA. Pp. xxvii, 224.
 II. *Tihuanacu (antología de los principales escritos de los cronistas coloniales americanistas e historiadores bolivianos)*. Pp. xvi, 239.
 III. *Anales de la Villa Imperial de Potosí*. By BARTOLOME MARTINEZ VELA. (Re-edited separately in 1943 and 1945). Pp. xxxi, 269.
 IV. *Memorias histórico-políticas*. By VICENTE PAZOS KANKI. Pp. xli, 167.
 V. *Potosí colonial*. By PEDRO VICENTE CAÑETE Y DOMINGUEZ. Pp. xxvii, 207.
 VI. *Folleto escogidos*. By CASIMIRO OLAÑETA. Pp. xxxiv, 197.
 VII. *La lengua de Adán y El hombre de Tiauanaco*. By EMETRIO VILLAMIL RADA. Pp. xxxiv, 235.
 VIII. *Arte de los metales*. By ALVARO ALONSO BARBA. Pp. xix, 201.

IX. and X. *Ultimos días coloniales en el Alto Perú*. By GABRIEL RENE-MORENO.

1941

25. *Estados Unidos en 1941*. La Paz. Editorial Universo. Pp. 227, iv.
26. *El arte de conocer a los hombres*. Bogotá. (2nd ed. Buenos Aires, 1947. Orientación Cultural. Illustrations. Pp. 267.)
27. *Una política educacional y otros ensayos*. La Paz.

1942

28. *La vida social del coloniaje (esquema de la historia del Alto Perú, hoy Bolivia, de los siglos XVI, XVII, y XVIII)*. La Paz. Editorial "La Paz." Pp. 399. Bibliography. 1943.
29. **Viaje por el Virreinato del Río de la Plata*. [By TADEO HAENKE] Buenos Aires. Emecé Editores.
30. *El arte de conocer a los hombres a través de la fisiognómica y la tipología*. Bogotá. Ediciones Tierra Firme. (Another ed. with slightly changed title issued in Buenos Aires by Orientación Cultural, 1947. 267 pp. illus.)
31. *El periodismo en América. Esquema de su historia a través de la cultura latino-americana (1492-1946)*. Lima. Editorial PTCM. Pp. xviii, 475. Bibliography.
32. **Tihuanacu. Antología histórica*. Buenos Aires. Emecé Editores. Colección Buenos Aires, 28. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 151.

1947

33. *Don Pedro Murillo y su tiempo*. La Paz.
34. *Sociología del nacionalismo en Hispano-América*. Quito. Ediciones del Grupo América. Bibliography. Pp. 198.

1948

35. *Estampas bolivianas*. La Paz. Gisbert. Pp. 127.

1951

36. *La piedra mágica. Vida y costumbres de los indios callahuayos de Bolivia*. Mexico. Instituto Indigenista Interamericano (Ediciones Especiales del Instituto Indigenista Interamericano, 5). Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Pp. xviii, 292.
37. *Estilo y forma de Bolivia*. Quito. Editorial "Rumiñahui." Pp. 126.

1952

38. *Figuras de la cultura boliviana*. Quito. Editorial "Rumiñahui." Bibliographies. Pp. 353.

1955

39. *Diplomáticos en el Vaticano (memorias apócrifas)*. Quito. Editorial "Rumiñahui." Pp. 301.
40. *Life in the Spanish Colonies with Particular Reference to Upper Peru, Now Bolivia*. (Extracts from *La vida social del coloniaje*.) Trans. and ed. by LEWIS BERTRAND. New York. Bertrand Bilingual Texts. Pp. xv, 125.

1957

41. *Estética de la conducta*. Quito. Edit. Universitaria. Pp. 371.