

## Journal des traducteurs Translators' Journal

**Corona Bustamante, F. A New Dictionary of the Spanish-English and English-Spanish Languages; new ed. 664 + 536 pp. Ottenhelmer. 1959. \$3.95 (thumb indexed \$4.95)**

B. Hunter Smeaton

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† CORONA BUSTAMANTE, F. *A New Dictionary of the Spanish-English and English-Spanish Languages*; new ed. 664 + 536 pp. Ottenhelmer. 1959. \$3.95 (thumb indexed \$4.95).

The designation "new edition" presupposes an older edition. "Books in print" and other domestic references failing, the reviewer ended up at the N.Y.P.L., which, in truth, had an older edition of the above, published in Paris in 1873 by Garnier Brothers (who also issued an 1893 reprint). Page 399 of the Engl.-Sp. section of 1959 edition was checked, entry by entry, with the 1873 work and was found to differ in no point except that, in nine instances, the last Spanish definition had been lopped off to save a line (the 1959 edition has larger type). A spot check of other pages showed the same results. Occasionally a superfluous spelling cross-reference is cut out. Perhaps a few terms have been revised, but the reviewer found only the change of *absinthium* to *absinth*. The definition of *avión* (surely, in 1959, first and foremost an airplane), is: "(Orn. Martin) martinet, swallow." For that matter, one cannot even find the meaning of 'photograph record' for *disco*, or 'light bulb' for *bombilla* (the latter is: "(Amer). A small tube for drinking the *Mate*"). The boasted 90,000 entries, moreover, are well padded with lexemes made up of freely combinatory elements (thus, *relief*, *relievable*, *reliefless*; *release*, *releaser*; *melt*, *remelt*; etc.), not to mention such gems as *admove*, *dronish*, *dronishness*, *to hank*, *helminthic*, *harbourage*, *harquebuss*, et al. In short, then, a dictionary already of scant value in 1873 has been reset and is being sold to students as though it had current validity (professional translators, of course, will not be deceived). Nor are its faults merely faults of omission or redundancy: the "exact pronunciation" inserted after each entry is, pedagogically speaking, downright pernicious, leading the student, as it does, to reduce the pronunciation of the foreign word to the phonetic values of his own language, from which he is not allowed to escape (thus, *petición*, one learns, should be pronounced *pay-teeth-e-on*'). Indeed, the dictionary has only one virtue the reviewer can discern, namely, its portability (16°).

B. Hunter SMEATON



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