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n 1950, I went to Uruguay to do research on José Batlle y Ordoñez for my doctoral dissertation at Harvard University. I intended to stay there for a year, return to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for another year or so, complete my thesis, and go on to something else. Instead, I have been studying and writing about Batlle y Ordoñez for close to sixty years. And while in Montevideo, I met Elsa M. Oribe, to whom I have been married for more than fifty years, and to whom this book is dedicated.

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-Milton I. Vanger