

## PREFACE

IT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING that so few studies have been published of individual viceroys who served the Spanish Crown in the New World, for the viceroy was, generally, a powerful figure whose competence, methods, attitudes, and character were of vital importance to millions of people, as well as to the status and progress of the Spanish empire. This investigation of Bucareli, who governed a key area in a significant time, has seemed to me, therefore, to be a worthwhile undertaking. It has come to include both a study of the man and of the system of viceregal administration as it had developed by the latter part of the eighteenth century.

The work has been in process for more than a dozen years, and the course of its evolution has been marked by the assistance of many persons. Dr. John W. Caughey first pointed out the possibilities of the subject and provided guidance and encouragement, especially during the sometimes discouraging early stages of the study. The American Philosophical Society provided financial assistance, making possible visits to Spain and Mexico for study in the appropriate archives. The staffs of the Archivo General de Indias in Seville and the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City were most helpful and cooperative. Finally, my colleagues in the Department of History at Washington State University and the administration of the University have not only encouraged my efforts, but have contributed materially to the completion of the study by making available the necessary time for research. To all these persons I wish here once more to express my gratitude.

B. E. B.

*Pullman, Washington*

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