Foreword

IN 1957 THE FAMILY and friends of the late Benjamin Kopper Smith established the B. K. Smith Chair in History at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, in memory of a former German bellmaker who had an avid interest in the history of his adopted country.

Smith's own history is an American success story. Born in Dresden, Germany, in 1882, he came to the United States as a young man and found work as a welder in a railroad shop. He soon rose to be welding superintendent on the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1920 he and an associate came to Texas and founded the Big Three Welding and Equipment Company. It was an eminently successful venture, and Smith's contributions to the Houston community were noteworthy.

The B. K. Smith Chair in History is a fitting memorial to this man. It has enabled the History Department periodically to invite distinguished historians to the campus. In addition to visiting classes and holding informal discussions with students and faculty, each visiting historian delivers a special lecture for the general public and the academic community. In 1978 the History Department invited two scholars in the field of Latin American history, Dr. E. Bradford Burns and Dr. Thomas E. Skidmore, to choose a subject of common interest and to present lectures from contrasting viewpoints. Their lectures were presented under the title "Popular Challenges and Elite Responses in Latin America, 1850–1930," and have been revised for publication in this volume.

E. Bradford Burns is Professor of History at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is the author of a prize-

winning study entitled *The Unwritten Alliance: Rio Branco and Brazilian-American Relations* (1966). His most recent work is the revised edition of *Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History* (1972, 1977). Dr. Burns holds the Order of Rio Branco, conferred by the government of Brazil.

Thomas E. Skidmore, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin, is the author of *Black into White: Race and Nationality in Brazilian Thought* (1974). An earlier book, *Politics in Brazil, 1930–1964: An Experiment in Democracy* (1967), has been reprinted several times in both English and Portuguese editions. Dr. Skidmore is a past president of the Latin American Studies Association.

Richard Graham, Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin and himself a distinguished Latin Americanist, served as commentator and has written the Introduction to the volume. His most recent books are *Independence in Latin America: A Comparative Approach* (1972) and *Britain and the Onset of Modernization in Brazil*, 1850–1914 (1968, 1972).

Virginia Bernhard, the editor of this volume, is Professor of History at the Universitý of St. Thomas.

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