

omy, and the Castilian municipal system. Then he goes on to treat the civilizing work of Castile in America, showing how it is to be distinguished from that of other colonizing powers in the sense that it was not limited by mere economic motives but that "vertió en sus nuevas provincias de Ultramar el contenido de su vida espiritual y les dió por molde sus propias instituciones." In like manner he points out the humanitarian principles which characterize the *Laws of the Indies*. He also examines the character of colonial institutions transferred from Castile and notes the peculiarities which circumstances forced upon them. Most attention is devoted to the municipal system in the New World in which there was "un efectivo rejuvenecimiento de las viejas formas castellanas, que le dan vida y una fuerza que ya no tenían en Castilla."

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*El correo en Santo Domingo: Historia documentada.* By OSCAR E. RAVELO A. (Ciudad Trujillo: Imprenta La Opinión, 1944. Pp. 239.)

This documentary sketch of the postal service in Santo Domingo is an official publication and has been prepared in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the Republic. It traces the story from the pre-Columbian epoch through the period of the Spanish annexation (1861-1864). The provisions of the *Laws of the Indies*, regulations, notes regarding important persons connected with the postal service, routes, lists of employees, rates, expenses of service and other items are discussed. In addition to many citations of documents in the body of the work the appendix contains the text of eighteen important documents. Two of these are of the sixteenth century, five are of the last years of the eighteenth century, one is of the first republic and the remaining eleven are of the period of Spanish annexation. Many of the documents are from the Archivo General de la Nación. There is a bibliography and a number of illustrations which add to the value of the volume.

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*La imprenta y el periodismo en el sur en el siglo XIX.* By MIGUEL F. ORTEGA. (Mexico: Editorial Pluma y Lápiz de México, 1943. Pp. 59.)

This excellently printed little book is worthy in content of the quality of its design and its paper; the fifty-eight pages deserve an

hour or so of careful reading and then warrant preservation on the reference shelf. The author presents in a running historical account, highlighted by bold captions, the development of the press in the south of Mexico and especially in the province of Guerrero.

The statistical summary of populations in the four largest towns, Chilapa, Tixtla, Chilpancingo, and Acapulco shows the minority of Spanish and mestizo families who would naturally support the press. The surprising thing is that there was one at all, for contact with outside areas must have been limited and there was almost constant revolution from 1813 until 1893. The press which was first set up in 1813 at Chilpancingo so that the public might be furnished with the resolutions of the first Congress of Anáhuac, however, was permanent, although moving from place to place as necessity required. In 1821 the first newspaper *El Méjico Independiente* was printed, and from this year, in spite of constant warfare, the number of serious journals and handbills produced in this region is considerable. To be sure most of them were shortlived. More than fifty separate titles are cited (the author apologizes for many omissions). Many of these are ephemeral and are probably not recorded elsewhere; yet it is not as bibliography but as a history of the press that this little book is a contribution. In addition to the general discussion, mention should be made of the appendix, which lists the names of journalists, lawyers, doctors, engineers, professors, army men, archbishops and bishops, priests and other literati who made the press possible. It is an impressive list but would have been more interesting and useful if the persons listed had been cited with reference to their publications. Altogether, the work is a contribution to provincial history and should not be passed over by those interested in the cultural history of southern Mexico.

RUTH LAPHAM BUTLER.

The Newberry Library.

*La primera imprenta en la provincias de Sonora y Sinaloa.* By HÉCTOR R. OLEA. (Mexico: Imprenta y Fotograbado Aurelio Villegas, 1943. Pp. 68.)

The author of this brochure on the press in the west of Mexico bewails, in his introduction, the obscurantism of the provinces of Sinaloa and Sonora during the first years of the Mexican Republic. Apparently there was a press in Guadalajara before the revolution, but publication was entirely in the hands of the clerics. Hidalgo ordered the press seized and immediately turned it to the use of the revolution, publishing manifestos, proclamations, orders and the