

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

*Despertador Americano.* The first book of importance was a collection of decrees of the Constituent Congress of the west which appeared in 1826. The first journal, *El Espectador Imparcial*, began publication in Cosalá in 1827. Other publications, chiefly of a political nature, followed in rapid succession; in fact there could be no better example of the importance of the press in democratic government. This little book seems a highly competent study of this publication activity. It is, however, a history rather than a bibliography, though it may be used as either. Its text tells not only what journals were established but describes their foundation, later fortune, and mentions their chief contributors. But there is also a bibliographical feature: all the imprints mentioned in the text are set in bold-face type, and there are nine facsimiles of title and sample pages.

Certainly this pamphlet will be useful to many Americanists, so it is exceedingly unfortunate that it is so poorly printed and on such perishable paper.

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*La necesidad de una actitud revisionista ante la historia de México en el siglo diecinueve.* By PAUL V. MURRAY. (Mexico: Reprinted from "JUS," No. 61, August, 1943. Pp. 25.)

In this paper, read at the National University of Mexico last year, Paul V. Murray stresses the need for a reëxamination and revaluation of Mexico's nineteenth-century history. He points to a number of aspects which require new treatment, but places the greatest emphasis upon the rôle of the church. He finds that it has been the fashion, particularly among American historians, to regard the post-colonial church in Mexico as an obstacle to economic progress and a center of reaction, largely because the source material consists of the writings of "liberals" and "revolutionaries" rather than "conservatives." Mr. Murray is confident that further research, of an unbiased character, will lead to a complete revision of this viewpoint regarding the church. The other principal fields for historical research (and revision) indicated by the author include: (1) sources of Mexican political ideas early in the nineteenth century; (2) rise of the liberal movement; (3) United States-Mexican relations (studies are needed by Mexican historians, using documents in Mexican archives); (4) Anglo-Mexican relations; (5) relations with Guatemala; (6) development of agrarian institutions (following the suggestive study of Pablo Martínez del Río, *El suplicio del hacendado*); (7) causes for