

the conventional division of history into periods; it reminds us that "the point of view of an Asiatic and that of a European differ with respect to the voyage of Marco Polo or of the Boxer Rebellion." Even, however, in discussing familiar topics, the author reveals an invigorating freshness. Historians, he observes, are not so harmonious in their interpretations as is a symphony orchestra under a single baton. Rather they are more like a jazz band. Such a manual undoubtedly has more value in Latin America than do its North American counterparts in the United States.

The most valuable part of the book lays bare the writing with a purpose of Latin-American historians. The author does not fail to condemn the *Leyenda Negra* of European and North American writers. But he also points out that most Latin-American historians are strongly pro-Bolívar or anti-Bolívar; pro-Miranda or anti-Miranda; pro-Rosas or anti-Rosas. Racial and religious prejudices are all too common among Latin-American authors. Foreigners—North Americans, Europeans—had to redress some of these long established Latin-American prejudices. Moreover, "from the conquest to the present day, the history of America, like the land of America, has been the patrimony or the heritage of *a single race and of a single class.*" (Italics in the original.) This is most important and most unfortunate, he insists, because the Latin American is essentially a man of mixed blood.

At a time when North Americans are reëxamining their writings about Latin America, as for example in the publication by the American Council on Education, *Latin America in School and College Teaching Materials*, it is gratifying to find an authoritative Latin-American historian pointing to the shortcomings among his own confreres. "In sum," he concludes, "we lack tolerance; we are overwhelmed by our prejudices; we lack ideas; we are overwhelmed by special interests."

This reviewer would like to add a word of caution to the revisionists. The eradication of the *Leyenda Negra* should not result in the whitewash. The best propaganda in the long run is the truth.

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*An Archeological Survey of Venezuela.* By CORNELIUS OSGOOD and GEORGE D. HOWARD. [Yale University Publications in Anthropology, Nos. 27-29.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1943. Pp. 1-153, illus.; 1-90, illus.; 1-70, illus. \$3.50.)

With the possible exceptions of Peru and Argentina there has been relatively little objective archeological research in most of the coun-

tries of South America. Venezuela has been no exception in this regard, hence the present well-illustrated monographs, included in one volume, form a very welcome addition to our increasing knowledge of prehistoric American civilization. The first number, by Osgood and Howard, presents the results of an extensive surface survey with careful excavation in many districts of both eastern and western Venezuela in 1941-1942. Of these, the eastern survey and diggings are particularly notable since this important region of the middle and lower Orinoco has heretofore been unknown from the archeological standpoint. The present work established two prehistoric cultural horizons at Ronquín near Parmana and traced these and related cultures as far north as Trinidad, with apparent extensions into the Greater Antilles, and possible extensions south to the Amazon. The survey account is at times confusing, since the various political districts or states visited are treated in alphabetic rather than geographic order, hence the conscientious reader covers most of Venezuela in a bewildering series of leapfrog movements. While very factual, the text, especially the descriptive, historical, and travel sections, is readable with entertaining sidelights such as the coincidental arrival of the survey party at Guiria on the northeast coast, where Columbus first landed on the American continent and claimed it for Spain, just four hundred and fifty-three years to the day later than that of the great Admiral, and their departure "again on the same morning as the discoverer" when "the parallel ended, for we found neither gold nor pearls" (p. 116).

The conclusion to this number is clear and understandable. The whole of Venezuela is discussed with an eye to its archeological potentialities which, on the whole, seem high. The prehistoric sites and cultural traits are classified as to spatial and temporal relationships and three major cultural centers are distinguished: (1) the lower Orinoco, Los Barrancos, a key site; (2) north central Venezuela, Aragua district, La Mata, a typical site; (3) and west central Venezuela, in Lara district, with Quibor a typical site. The final cultural classification, along "Taxonomic" or Midwestern United States lines, distinguishes 6 Phases and 15 Aspects in Venezuelan archeology as known at present. Considering the pioneering status of archeology in Venezuela, this marks a long stride forward.

The second number (28), by Howard, is a detailed report of excavation at the important stratified site of Ronquín. There is an interesting historical introduction and a meticulously scientific presentation of the archeological findings. The average reader, even though he be an archeologist, will find the terminology employed somewhat

forbidding, but the results are excellent. The findings at Ronquín are carefully compared with other Venezuelan and adjacent regions and the important relationships indicated are as stated above. Three appendices deal with adjacent sites. The final paper by Osgood is a brief, but detailed report on the excavation of a mound in the state of Aragua, near Lake Valencia, in 1933. Aside from details of excavation and classification he discusses "The Life" and "The Art of the Mound Dwellers." This report in conjunction with the contemporary work of Rafael Requena, Alfred Kidder II, and Wendell Bennett, makes this Lake Valencia district the best-known archeological region in Venezuela. Considered as a whole, the three monographs under review for the first time tentatively but objectively outline the prehistoric background of a large and very important section of Hispanic America. As part of the larger Institute of Andean Research research program of 1941-1942<sup>1</sup> they give great promise for the future of prehistoric research in Middle and South America.

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*Archaeological Regions of Colombia: A Ceramic Survey.* By WENDELL C. BENNETT. [Yale University Publications in Anthropology, No. 30. GEORGE PETER MURDOCK and CORNELIUS OSGOOD, editors.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1944. Pp. 120. 12 plates, 26 figures, 9 tables.)

*Excavations in the Vicinity of Cali, Colombia.* By JAMES A. FORD. [Yale University Publications in Anthropology, No. 31. GEORGE PETER MURDOCK and CORNELIUS OSGOOD, editors.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1944. Pp. 79. 4 plates, 19 figures. Bound with Number Thirty, sold only as a unit. \$2.50.)

The support given by the Office of the Coördinator of Inter-American Affairs to the scientific program of the Institute of Andean Research during the years 1941-1942 has already been rewarded by a series of handsome dividends in the form of publications which materially augment knowledge of the ancient history of the central and southern parts of the New World. The two papers here reviewed are numbers 6A and 6B respectively of the series sponsored by the Institute of Andean Research. The first collates in an orderly manner the atomistic elements of the available information concerning the pre-

<sup>1</sup> For a brief outline of this program and the publications resulting therefrom see: Wm. Duncan Strong, *Cross Sections of New World Prehistory*, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 104, No. 2, 1943.