

ruler of one of the dynasties in southern Mexico made important changes in the local calendar system, shifting it from the Zapotec system to one more near the Aztec and other Mixtec ones. Though Señor Caso's short synthesis gives us the major conclusions and data Americanists familiar with his views so long have awaited, it merely whets the appetite for the longer, more detailed work, parts of which can be set in the framework sketched by Kubler and Gibson.

In the extensive and impressive bibliography (one of the most complete to date on the highly specialized matter of Mexican chronology) one notes with surprise the absence of certain old favorites like H. H. Bancroft, and the old but useful papers of Cyrus Thomas. There can be no doubt, however, that the able synthesis and critique furnished by Kubler and Gibson provides a point of departure for reevaluating old work and attempting new. This is a sound monographic treatment, beautifully manufactured by the Yale University Press. It is a specialist's item.

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Crónica Mexicayotl. By FERNANDO ALVARADO TEZOMOC, translated from Nahuatl by ADRIÁN LEÓN. [Instituto de Historia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia.] (México City: Imprenta Universitaria, 1949. Pp. xxvii, 189. Illustration, index. Paper.)

The publication of the *Crónica Mexicayotl* fills a bad gap in our knowledge of Mexico's pre-Spanish history. Known as an existing source for two hundred years, it was available only to those students who were able to read Nahuatl and could also afford to consult the manuscript at the National Library in Paris. It was written around 1609 by a grandson of the unfortunate Moctezuma, Don Fernando Alvarado Tezomoc, long since famous for his Spanish *Crónica mexicana*, and, as the initial statements of this noble Indian historian clearly reveal, contains the biased points of view of the once ruling house of Tenochtitlan.

The first part deals with the long migrations of the Aztecs or Mexicans after departing from the mythological places of Aztlán and Chicomoztóc under the leadership of their tribal god Huitzilopochtli. Later we learn of their arrival in the valley of Mexico but the difficulties they had to overcome with the people already established there are barely sketched. Finally, Tenochtitlan is founded on the islands in lake Texcoco. All this is vividly described with many interesting details such as the migrants' primitive way of life, their relationship with the Michoacanos and the struggle between Huitzilopochtli and his mythological relatives.

The second part refers again to the foundation of Tenochtitlan. The early relations with neighbors are again treated in a veiled manner for the facts were not too flattering to the pride of the Mexicans. What then follows is a list of the kings of Tenochtitlan with surprisingly few data about real doings and conquests. The author is here much more concerned with lengthy pedigrees, carrying them down to his own days at the close of the sixteenth century. To each date given in the Mexican chronological system is attached the corresponding Christian one. It is not clear who established this correlation, but in any case it should be taken with the utmost reserve in light of Paul Kirchhoff's new theory that multiple calendars coexisted in the valley of Mexico.

As a whole, the *Crónica Mexicayotl* in many aspects closely parallels the recently published *Unos anales históricos de la nación mexicana* (also called *Anales de Tlatelolco*). The latter contain the equally biased view points of Tenochtitlan's twin city, Tlatelolco, so that with both complementary sources at hand and a critical mind we can come closer to the historical truth than by the use of only one.

The presentation of the book has suffered through the absence of Adrián León, the able translator, who, after finishing the translation, left Mexico for the United States and therefore did not check the final edition. His foreword is printed but none of the notes and comments offered in the same foreword. Even the arrangement of the book is left unexplained: in the center of each page the original Nahuatl text, below it an almost literal translation, and above it a free translation though not notably different from the literal one. The absence of explanatory notes is certainly a handicap for the non-professional reader; but the specialist will enjoy discovering for himself the parallels with other known sources.

With the inclusion of the Nahuatl text, the *Crónica Mexicayotl* is not only a valuable source book of information to historians but at the same time of inestimable value to linguists.

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Handbook of South American Indians, Vol. VI. Edited by JULIAN H. STEWARD. [Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 143.] (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1950. Pp. xiii, 715. Illustrations, maps, bibliography. \$5.00.)

With the present volume the Smithsonian's great *Handbook of South American Indians* is complete. This final volume consists of four parts considered by the editors to be in some way marginal to the study of