

(p. 68), he states that the United States failed to accept an invitation to the Panama Conference of 1826 and that the first Pan American Conference took place in 1899 (p. 131), and he presents Mexico, Argentina, and Chile as the only neutrals in Latin America in World War I (p. 133). An interesting statement is that our Ambassador Armour in 1943 used General Rawson to overthrow the government of Castillo in Argentina and was in turn thwarted by the overthrow of Rawson two days later. Will future disclosures bear out this accusation?

Historians may cringe at several overly glib and enthusiastic statements of journalist Samhaber—at such statements as one that in the past century there have been no wars in South America—but they will be well paid for reading this thought-provoking work.

Fritz L. Hoffmann

University of Colorado

*Tradiciones de mi pueblo: Valencia, Venezuela.* By FRANCISCO GONZALEZ GUINAN. Caracas, 1954. Editorial "Ragon." Pp. 217.

The 34 short essays in this volume are about equally divided between local history and personal reminiscences. First published in 1927, they are now reissued as part of the Colección Cuatricentaria. (J. P. H.)

#### BACKGROUND

*Coatlicue. Estética del arte indígena antiguo.* By JUSTINO FERNANDEZ. Prologue by SAMUEL RAMOS. Mexico City, 1954. Centro de Estudios Filosóficos. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 285.

The first comprehensive attempt to appraise the aesthetic values of pre-Conquest sculpture. The basis of the demonstration is an analysis of the most imposing Aztec monument, the Coatlicue, with detailed description, criticism of formal elements, and their mythological interpretation. The author's concern is with the work of art itself, and what can be seen and felt there by an informed and willing

spirit. This is supplemented by a presentation of the personal aesthetic by which the author enlarges his appreciation to include art alien to our Western European culture, and by an historical review of changing aesthetic attitudes in the archaeological literature.

ELIZABETH WILDER WEISMANN  
Austin, Texas

*Diccionario miskito-español, español-miskito. Obra dedicada al proyecto civilizador de enseñar el castellano a la raza de indígenas que vive más allá del río Negro en La Mosquitia, Honduras.* By C. R. HEATH and W. G. MARX. Tegucigalpa, 1953. Imprenta Calderón. Pp. 236. Paper.

The authors state that the purpose of this dictionary is to serve as a key in the teaching of Spanish to the people of the Mosquitia so that the region may be incorporated culturally and economically into the rest of Honduras. For teachers, traders, agricultural experts, and missionaries this book will certainly be a necessary item in their work. In the front of the book there are explanations of the pronunciation of Miskito and a few comments on its grammar. It is claimed that the Miskito-Español part is the most complete that has appeared to date. Because it was impossible to find the meaning for thousands of Spanish words in Miskito, the Español-Miskito part contains all the Spanish words of the first part plus the meaning of the 1500 words most used in Spanish as well as some additional Spanish words which, if not common, are used with some frequency by the people of the Mosquitia.

E. V. NIEMEYER, JR.

Lima, Peru

*Historia antigua y de las culturas aborígenes de México.* By MANUEL OROZCO Y BERRA. Mexico City, 1954. Second edition. Ediciones Fuente Cultural. Biblioteca de Historia y Cultura Mexicana. Illustrations. Maps. 2 vols.

Based on the first edition of 1880, with some additional notes and illustrations. (L.H.)