

Economic Cooperation Administration, which bore most of the expense, and the University of Wisconsin. Participants numbered more than one hundred and were drawn from about forty countries distributed throughout six continents. The papers included in the volumes are mainly those presented at the conference, but a few supplementary articles and the reports of some of the "working groups" organized during the conference also are given.

Naturally the texts of the 127 papers and reports, which appear to have been edited and organized only in a casual manner, constitute a very heterogeneous lot. Nevertheless, as individual pieces of work many of them are excellent; and collectively they make this book highly important as a reference. This is particularly true of the papers which analyze and describe tenure systems and relationships in European, a few of the Asian, and Latin American countries.

Latin Americans participating in the conference whose contributions are published in the volume are: Alberto Arca Parró and Francisco Ponce de León of Peru; José Ramón Astorga of Chile; Gregorio Beltrán, Cristina Mariño, and Armando Tamayo of Venezuela; Pedro Bernal of Colombia; João Gonçalves de Souza of Brazil; Marco Antonio Durán, Antonio Tapia, and Edmundo Flores of Mexico; Eduardo Llovet of Uruguay; Antonio Posada of Colombia and the Inter-American Statistical Association; Manuel Rodríguez-Cabrera of Cuba; Claudio Romero of Paraguay; Manuel M. de San Román of Costa Rica; and Luis Rivera Santos of Puerto Rico. In addition the following United States social scientists, who have lived and worked in Latin America, are among the contributors: George W. Hill, John H. Kolb, James G. Maddox, Lowry Nelson, and Carl C. Taylor. As a whole the materials dealing with Latin America compare very favorably with the remainder of the papers and reports in the volume.

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*Oaxaca en la historia. (De la época precolombina a los tiempos actuales.)* By JORGE FERNANDO ITURRIBARRÍA. Mexico City, 1955. Editorial Stylo. Indexes. Bibliography. Pp. xxxv, 471. Paper.

A history of Oaxaca with major emphasis on the Pre-Independence period, the Díaz regime, and the Revolution of 1910. Primarily a chronological and political history, nearly half the work treats the period from 1910, and refutes the current fallacy that the Oaxaqueños were enemies of the Revolution. The author stresses the need of such knowledge by present-day citizens whom he feels should be better informed.

Oaxaca has produced two great state and national leaders, Benito Juárez and Porfirio Díaz. Yet their ideals and influence are not continued in Oaxacan families and citizenship. Such lack of local animation and spirit fails to express needed Mexican patriotism.

The work is based largely on printed sources, but citations and documentation are absent. Long sentences and short paragraphs and chapters make for difficult understanding of the text, which was intended principally for students at the Universidad Benito Juárez in Oaxaca.

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#### BACKGROUND

*Los aborígenes de las Antillas.* By FELIPE PICHARDO MOYA. Mexico City, 1956. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Map. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 140.

This is a synthesis of the archaeology and ethnology of the Antillean Indians, prepared for the general reader. It is clear, well organized, and simply written, but suffers from three major defects: (1) There are no illustrations of the archaeological and ethnological material. (2) The author is apparently unfamiliar with much recent research on the subject. In discussing the Island Carib, for example, he mentions Taylor's 1930 visit to the Dominica res-

ervation but seems to be unaware that Taylor has continued to work there and to write on the Carib ever since. The bibliography contains nothing on the Antilles published since 1949. (3) The contact period is emphasized at the expense of the prehistoric and the subsequent historic periods. The author rejects the evidence of ceramic stratigraphy, which would have enabled him to outline the prehistoric developments in more detail and, by failing to include a chapter on Indian-European relationships, omits another important segment of our knowledge concerning the Indians of the Antilles.

IRVING ROUSE

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*Ceramic Sequence at Uaxactun, Guatemala.* 2 volumes. By ROBERT E. SMITH. New Orleans, 1955. Middle American Research Institute. Publication No. 20. Illustrations. Maps. Appendices. Index. Tables. Pp. viii, 214; 86 photographs.

Smith's study rounds out the major reports on this important site published since 1937. Not many adequate works on Maya ceramics have appeared. Smith here makes in a sense a preliminary contribution: periods, wares, decoration techniques, and design types are emphasized. Technological breakdowns of the wares await completion of Anna O. Shepard's current research on various Maya ceramic families. These will likely amplify rather than contradict Smith's data.

Four main phases comprise the ceramic sequence, extending well over 600 years: Mamon and Chicanel (early and late pre-Classic), Tzakol and Tepeu (early and late Classic). Associated stelae determine the Classic period timespan as ca. A.D. 278 (Tzakol I) to 889 (Tepeu III). No pre-Classic (pre-stelae) dates are conjectured. Smith's terminology replaces Ricketson's earlier system, a substitution probably not confusing to the expert.

For specialists, chapters on diagnostics, decoration methods, design types, specialized vessels, and an analysis of

phases are well presented, with good illustrations and charts. Others will appreciate excellent summaries in the introduction and much interesting descriptive material.

ARTHUR J. O. ANDERSON

Museum of New Mexico

*Guía oficial del Museo Nacional de Antropología.* Mexico City, 1956. Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Illustrations. Pp. 133. Paper.

The official guidebook of Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology briefly sums up recent archaeological findings in Mexico and the latest classification of archaeological sequences formulated by Mexican scholars. Excellent photographs depict works of art typical of various periods in Mexican prehistory.

The earliest archaeological epoch called "Pre-Classic" replaces Spinden's "Archaic" period. The Pre-Classic Epoch, which lasted from about 1350 B.C. until 150 B.C. according to Carbon 14 testing, is divided into three phases. The earliest phase is characterized by tiny fishing, hunting, gathering and maize farming communities concentrated mainly on lake and river shores. Type sites are El Arbolillo, Zacatenco and Tlatilco. In the second phase true towns such as Tlatilco grew and produced artifacts showing marked Olmec influence. The third phase is noted for the construction of ceremonial centers such as Cuicuilco, Ticoman and Teotihuacan. After the Pre-Classic era came the Classic Epoch (400-800 A.D.) typified by Teotihuacan florescence. The final prehispanic period, called the Historical Epoch (900-1521 A.D.), witnessed the building of the Tarascan Empire in Michoacan.

The guidebook sketches in a nutshell development of Gulf Coast cultures, northern and western Mexican cultures, Zapotec, Mixtec and Mayan cultures.

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