

matic theory is impressive, and it may turn out that he is correct.

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Village and Plantation Life in North-eastern Brazil. By HARRY WILLIAM HUTCHINSON. Seattle, Washington, 1957. University of Washington Press. The American Ethnological Society. A Monograph from the Research and Training Program for the Study of Man in the Tropics. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 199. \$3.50.

This book is a noteworthy contribution to the growing number of social science studies of the changes in the plantation systems which owed their existence to the expansion of European civilization in the Americas. Such studies are of especial value at this time when the colonial regimes under which the plantations flourished are disappearing. Although this study deals with plantation life in Brazil, the manner in which it was carried out gives it a wider significance. It throws light on the economic, social, and cultural processes that are involved in the changes which are occurring in the plantations in other parts of the world. The study includes an analysis of the physical and economic bases of the plantation as well as the social and cultural life which was rooted in it. The analysis includes such important elements of plantation society as race and class, the family, and religion. The book is provided with excellent maps; diagrams showing the organization of the plantation hierarchy; and plates.

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COLONIAL PERIOD

Bernabé Cobo, S. J. Obras. 2 volumes. Estudio preliminar y edición de FRANCISCO MATEOS S.J. Madrid, 1956. Ediciones Atlas. Biblioteca de Autores Españoles, XCI-XCII. Madrid, 1956. Pp. xlviii, 439; 516.

Contiene la reedición de la *Historia del Nuevo Mundo* (siguiendo la ex-

celente edición de Marcos Jiménez de la Espada), de la *Fundación de Lima* (según el texto de Juan Bautista Muñoz), y de dos cartas de 1630 y 1633 (según la edición de Carlos A. Romero). Con notas, índices generales en cada tomo y alfabético en el segundo. El estudio preliminar se refiere a la vida (1572-1659), personalidad intelectual y escritos del famoso cronista; lleva un repertorio bibliográfico y utiliza algún dato nuevo.

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El cabildo de Santiago en el siglo XVI. (Estudio sistemático-jurídico del contenido de las actas entre 1541 y 1609.) By FERNANDO TORO GARLAND. Preface by ANÍBAL BASCUÑÁN VALDÉS. Santiago, Chile, 1955. Editorial Universitaria. Universidad de Chile. Escuela de Derecho. Bibliography. Pp. 195. Paper.

This is the first in a proposed series of publications aimed at indexing the laws and legal customs of the cabildo of Santiago de Chile. The study covers the period from 1541 to 1609, and was presented as the *Prueba para optar al Grado de Licenciado* to the University of Chile. It is printed on the cheapest of paper, apparently by means of a mimeograph process.

Following an historical introduction based on a very few secondary works, is a lengthy chapter giving a fairly detailed and well organized outline of the various activities performed by the Santiago council, with illustrations selected from the *Actas del cabildo*. References are also made to the Laws of the Indies, usually obtained from the 1681 *Recopilación*, which applied to local government.

As an index to the *Actas* of the Santiago cabildo, 1541-1609, this section has some value. Comments on the material, however, often reveal a lack of acquaintance with the general history of the period. Particularly inadequate is the treatment of *cabildos abiertos*. It is absurd to equate the sending of a *procurador* to Spain with a New World Cortes (p. 69). When