

letters and telegrams taken from the historical archives of the *Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional*. These *anexos* of Part IV supplement the documents of Part III and cover the military operations of the Mexican Revolution from July to December, 1913. This volume, although not always as clear, orderly, compact, or correlated as the preceding work, will surely help future investigation and critical evaluation of this turbid period. The author does, however, provide a very useful note which identifies the general nature of each dispatch.

This sprawling compilation of scattered pieces contains a variety of scenes and impressions which form a vague pattern of chronic difficulties in military matters, personnel, and administration. From the outset the trend is established—the dispatches reveal a gradually lowering federalist *esprit de corps* as the darkening shadows of ultimate defeat converge on the *huertista* camp.

LUIS MORTON, JR.

Odessa College

Mexican Journal 'The Conquerors Conquered.' By SELDEN RODMAN. New York, 1958. The Devin-Adair Co. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 298. Cloth. \$6.00.

Among serious students of contemporary Mexico, this journal of the late 1956 and early 1957 Mexican experiences of a perceptive, art-minded American has value only for the art historian. Weak on Mexico, it concentrates on art. In a kaleidoscopic series of conversational portraits, the art-immersed author offers much on painters and painting, a little on architecture, less on literature, and nothing on music. As mortar for his bricks on art, Rodman trowels in tidbits about his bull-fighting wife, Acapulco hotels, dysentery-ridden companions, and other trivia. Thirty-two pages of illustrations, infrequent passages of poetic prose, and rare insights into the Mexican enrich the book; glib generalizations and numerous errors of fact, re-

vealing gross ignorance of Mexican history, impoverish the performance. More than half of the volume is a skillfully contrived record—impressionistic, disconnected, and repetitive—of such men as Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, Tamayo, Covarrubias, Goitia, Atl, and Mérida, with blunt asides about unmet politicians and with thumbnail summations of ill-understood intellectuals. Much of the inadequacy of this art-lover's interpretation of Mexico derives from overweening dependence upon a narrow and far from dispassionate sector of Mexico City society.

C. HARVEY GARDINER

Southern Illinois University

México; História dum a viagem. By ERICO VERÍSSIMO. Porto Alegre, 1957. Editôra Globo. Bibliography. Pp. 299. Paper.

This account of a brief sojourn in Mexico covers familiar ground. The author takes us from the border to Mexico City and back again to the Rio Grande. Included in the itinerary are such inevitable places as Tlaxcala, Cholula, Puebla, Taxco, Cuernavaca, Toluca, Teotihuacán. The features of the Mexican scene that hold his interest are likewise fairly standard—Indians, folkways, churches, markets, taxi drivers, mural painting, etc. And like many a traveler before him, Veríssimo does not resist the urge to retell the early history of the Aztecs and their conquest by the Spaniards.

Nevertheless this is an unusual book, for Veríssimo writes about these time-worn subjects with the genial scepticism, tolerance and humor that characterize his famous novels. He appraises Mexico from the standpoint of a Brazilian deeply conscious of his own culture and of another he knows almost equally well—that of the United States. From his preoccupation with cultural values emerges the conclusion that Mexico is a "world of magic," the United States a "world of logic," and his native Brazil the land where magic and logic may eventually fuse to produce the ideal synthesis. What-

ever the merits of this thesis, certainly no Latin American writer is better equipped to defend it than **Erico Veríssimo**.

DANIEL WOGAN

Tulane University

15 años de periodismo al servicio de México. By LIC. GUILLERMO MARTÍNEZ DOMÍNGUEZ. Mexico City, 1958. Ediciones A.M.P. Index. Pp. xiii, 502. Paper.

For the historian seeking a résumé of recent Mexican political and economic history, told in humanistic terms, the Mexican Association of Journalists recently provided a one-volume recapitulation of fifteen years of commentary by Guillermo Martínez Domínguez.

Beginning with his 1943 columns in the magazine *Hoy*, this book includes Martínez' columns in the newspaper *Excelsior* through December, 1957. Social security, the national railroads, braceros, inflation, and business expansion each get the Martínez treatment. That treatment consists of translating economic technical terms and political circumlocution into conversational Spanish. Martínez has the profundity of Walter Lippmann but the inviting phraseology of Norman Cousins.

Trained as an economist, Martínez returned to the National University as a professor after engaging in post-licentiate research. His fame in Mexico, however, has come not through being president of the Colegio de Economistas but as a widely-respected newspaper pundit.

When Martínez was awarded the Lizardi Journalism prize (Mexico's meager approximation of a Pulitzer award) in 1953, the citation read: "He has brought honor to his profession." A reading of this fifteen-year sample of his work affirms that contention.

MARTIN ALISKY

Arizona State University

Las palabras perdidas. By MAURICIO MAGDALENO. Mexico City—Buenos

Aires, 1956. Fondo de Cultura Económica. *Vida y Pensamiento de México.* Illustrations. Pp. 224. Paper.

Historians of the Mexican Revolution should be grateful for this report, which is a basic source of information about the presidential campaign of José Vasconcelos. While no work can quite equal the four-volume autobiography of Vasconcelos as a brilliantly-written source of information about the revolutionary period, it must not be forgotten that Mauricio Magdaleno, the author of *El resplandor, Campo Celis, El ardiente verano, Pánuco 137,* and *Emiliano Zapata*, is a distinguished writer. As an ardent *vasconcelista*, he has the information and the enthusiasm to write a well-documented and persuasive book. It is impossible to read it and not to feel scorn for Calles and Portes Gil. In retrospect, Vasconcelos' presidential campaign appears as a quixotic and rather harmless episode. However, when we listen to an eye-witness account of that campaign, we realize that it was an intensely serious affair, and that many people were killed defending the cause of Vasconcelos, the enemy of the monolithic official party. The story is illustrated with some thirty photographs. Those of us who know Vasconcelos as an elderly, scholarly and mild gentlemen cannot help being impressed with this vision of a young and dynamic leader. Even if due allowance is made for the respect we feel for Vasconcelos, the fact remains that he stands out as a natural leader, and a civilized one, among a tawdry crowd of political adventurers. Mauricio Magdaleno's book is a must for any student of the Mexican Revolution.

RONALD HILTON

Stanford University

Santa Cruz of the Eila Hills. By HELEN MILLER BAILEY. Florida, 1958. University of Florida Press. Illustrations. Pp. ix, 292. Cloth. \$6.00.

This is a pleasant, semi-popular volume, written by someone who shows