

GRASSO. La Paz, 1958. Gisbert y Cia. Pp. xxii, 453.

This is the newest Bolivian history textbook, written by eminent scholars. Some pre-Columbian chapters were written by the energetic Argentine archeologist, Ibarra Grasso. The other pre-Columbian chapters and the colonial period were done by José and Teresa de Mesa who have just returned from a Guggenheim grant in the United States. The national period was written by the late Humberto Vázquez-Machicado.

The book is divided into six parts, each of which has about four chapters. Part one deals with the pre-Columbian period. Two, three and four cover the colonial period, and the last two parts belongs to the republican period. Each chapter is subdivided into well defined sections. Practically each page has excellent pen and ink illustrations. The text is completely unbiased and is based on solid historical facts. This work is recommended for American universities which offer courses in Latin American history. It gives an adequate overall view of Bolivia.

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Nuestras vías interoceánicas: Tehuantepec, Nicaragua, Panamá. A propósito del Canal de Suez. By VICENTE SÁENZ. Mexico City, 1957. Editorial América Nueva. Colección Autores Contemporáneos, IX. Bibliography. Pp. 217. Paper. \$16.00 pesos; \$2.00 dols.

This is an historical study of some of the projects for ship canals to link the Atlantic and Pacific across Tehuantepec, Nicaragua and Panama. It is also a critical discussion of contemporary problems associated with the Panama Canal, and with plans for other waterways. Many of these issues have become accentuated since the Suez crisis of 1956;—in fact this particular volume seems to have been inspired partially by the Suez affair of the year prior to its publication. Indeed, the entire second part of the volume is

based upon a discussion of the repercussions which the Suez crisis had upon the people and government of Panama. There is a very interesting treatment of the U.S.-Panamanian points of contention over the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. There is also an examination of the history of other canal projects proposed as alternatives to the existing Isthmian waterway, both in the present time and in years past.

The author insists that the issue of sovereignty for any new canal, whether in Mexico or Central America, probably will have to be resolved completely in favor of the Latin American state through whose soil the United States might finance and furnish technical assistance for a new canal to link the oceans. This appears to be the *sine qua non* to any undertaking for an interoceanic waterway in the Western Hemisphere. The issue of sovereignty over the existing Panama Canal Zone is far from settled because of the indecisive wording of the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty. This question hangs like an ominous shadow over the discussion of any new project of canal building in the Americas.

One of the best features of the book is its recital of various canal schemes planned and discussed for the Tehuantepec area. There has been some neglect in the past of this very interesting phase of U.S.-Mexican relations.

The final portion of the book carries the text of the principal treaties dealing with the subject of interoceanic canals across American territory, including the official text of the Bidlack-Mallarino, Clayton-Bulwer, Hay-Pauncefote, Hay-Bunau-Varilla, Bryan-Chamorro, Hull-Alfaro, Hull-Castillo Najera and Fabrega-Chapin treaties. There is also included the text of the Constantinople Convention of 1888.

LAWRENCE EALY

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Prescott and His Publishers. By C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1959. Southern Illinois University Press.

Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 342. Cloth. \$5.95.

William Hickling Prescott produced six historical works, of which two—*Conquest of Mexico* and *Conquest of Peru*—are still in print. He dealt with four American publishers, two of whom—Little, Brown and Harper's—are still in business. In England he was published by Bentley and pirated by Routledge.

Prescott and His Publishers describes in fascinating detail the rôles Prescott played as he peered over the shoulder of one publisher after another. It illuminates the publishing scene of the mid-nineteenth century and much of the literary landscape as well.

Prescott supervised each phase of publication with an assiduousness that would unnerve a publisher of today. He financed and supervised the typesetting, did much of the editing and proofreading, personally applied for his own copyrights, arranged his own contracts and foreign editions, spread review copies from Boston to Charleston. In his view, these things were done by him because publishing was a "slippery trade." Yet his devotion to detail was more out of pleasure than distrust, for he gave himself away in one delightful letter to Harper's when he wrote, "As I have got beyond . . . sending and receiving love-letters, I find the most agreeable part of my correspondence is [of late with] Publishers." (p. 15)

In addition to a good index, this book contains notes, bibliography, and an appendix which includes the complete text of Prescott's publication contracts. *Prescott and His Publishers* should be useful to scholars, interesting to authors, and to publishers a delight.

ROBERT CROWELL

New York City

Las relaciones humanas en la administración pública mexicana. By ANTONIO GARCÍA VALENCIA. Mexico City, 1958. Editorial Porrúa. Appendices. Pp. 210. Paper.

While in Spain and in most Spanish-American countries the study of public

administration is still carried on largely in the traditional style of legal analysis, Mexican students of public administration—as in some other areas of the social sciences—are pioneering in the application of more modern, and more fruitful, approaches. Professor García Valencia, following in the footsteps of Lucio Mendieta y Núñez, his illustrious compatriot, seeks to apply the insights and criteria of social psychology (such as Erich Fromm's), of general sociology (such as Sorokin's), and of the latest American general administrative theories (such as Herbert Simon's). But he is also thoroughly at home in empirical research, including sociometry and sociodrama. The author first surveys the record of public administration in Mexico before and after the Spanish conquest; he argues that the still widespread habit of "fiscal fraud" is largely a residue of the colonial period (p. 41). He then proceeds to analyze the development of public administration in Mexico in the period of independence. The heart of the book is Chapter VIII, in which he points to the salient problems of Mexican administration today. The lack of a merit system and "servilismo" (pp. 107-113) appear to him among the most pressing problems to be solved. As a principal specific solution, he suggests a considerable expansion of social welfare of all types within the public service, so as to provide the civil servant with more security, dignity, and independence.

WILLIAM EBENSTEIN

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Relatos y comentarios sobre temas de historia venezolana. By HECTOR GARCÍA CHUECOS. Caracas, 1957. Imprenta Nacional. Prologue. Pp. 412. Paper.

"The country is above all the history of the country," Doctor García Chuecos is fond of saying, and assuredly no one has labored more zealously to preserve and make known the past of Venezuela. He has worked as director of the national archives, writer, editor, and teacher. His special field has been the colonial period, although