

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

he has not limited his researches to that era. His published works include studies on colonial intellectual and institutional history (the captaincy general and the hacienda); two thick volumes of *Estudios*, covering a variety of matters, and a couple of biographies.

This book contains addenda to earlier studies, articles that did not find place in a volume in preparation on eighteenth-century Venezuela, and new materials. The titles of its seven parts are: I. Vida Política y Social de la Colonia; II. Estudios y Narraciones; III. Expediciones Libertadoras de Miranda; IV. Venezolanos de la Colonia; V. Olvidados Valores Venezolanos; VI. Historia Documental: Valiosos Hallazgos Históricos; VII. Comentarios Bibliográficos.

Only a sampling of the contents can be noted. Part II, for example, provides commentaries and some new data on a number of topics: the constitutional significance of the congresses of cities; the inquisition in Venezuela; the abortive slave insurrection of 1749; the introduction of printing; colonial law and lawyers; the study of medicine in colonial Mérida.

Part IV consists of sketches of Venezuelans who left home for positions in church, state, or university in other Spanish dominions—a pre-independence expansion which, the author declares, deserves further investigation.

Part VI concerns his discovery, as director of the national archives, of the Acts of the Ayuntamiento of Caracas for 1821; also the recent donation to the archives of the Acts of the Council of Government, 1834-1835.

As he says, some of these relations (in Part I, for example) belong to *la historia pequeña* rather than to *la historia grande*; but none are unimportant. They provide significant details that enrich the larger story.

MARY WATERS

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Sugar, Gold, and Coffee. Essays on the History of Brazil Based on Francis Hull's Books. By FELIX REICHMANN. Ithaca, New York,

1959. Cornell University Library. The Francis Hull Library of Brazilianiana. Illustrations. Appendix. Bibliography. Pp. xxiii, 160.

Both title and subtitle of this small volume are misleading, in that it is basically a résumé of Brazilian history from the Age of Discovery to the First Republic, rather than a series of disconnected essays. Avowedly not an expert on Latin America, Dr. Reichmann has, nonetheless, made a remarkably good synthesis of the salient events and movements in the history of Brazil.

Many of the author's interpretations are intriguing. For example, he demonstrates how English fishing interests turned to commerce and piracy, when Protestant Englishmen equated fish-eating with "Popery," the efforts of Parliament to clear the issue notwithstanding. (p. 42) On the other hand, this contradictory statement follows: "the main incentive was not greed for Spanish gold or silver (although these played a by-no-means-unimportant part) but religious zeal, which gave the English corsair the dignity and self-righteousness of a Protestant crusader." (p. 43) Nor can anyone acquainted with the violence of fifteenth and sixteenth century England, or even Shakespeare's historical tragedies, accept the distinction Dr. Reichmann makes between the atrocities perpetrated by English pirates and what he calls Spanish "judicial mass murder" of English seamen. (p. 43) There is no such thing as a slight case of murder—or rape.

Though classic in style, this work is marred by various misspellings of Spanish and Portuguese words. It also contains some geographical anomalies, e.g.: "India-bound ships . . . reached the Brazilian coast near Pernambuco, then turned southeast via Trinidad and the Cape of Good Hope." (p. 12) Again, it is stated that Portugal's portion by terms of the Treaty of Tordesillas, "would have included a substantial part of the North American coastline." (p. 37) Had the line been drawn as far west as 50°W, which it