

was not, the statement would still be questionable.

To this reviewer the most delightful and valuable part of the book was the introduction, which gave an inkling of the quality and quantity of Brazilian art in the Hull Collection. Here Dr. Reichmann, a distinguished Viennese bookman, now a respected Associate Director of the Cornell Library, is in his element and at his best. It is hoped that he will expand this brief bibliographical essay into a study which would be of value to all scholars interested in Brazil.

JOSÉ C. CANALES

#### BACKGROUND

*Archaeological Excavations in the Northern Sierra Madre Occidental, Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico.* By ROBERT H. LISTER, with reports by PAUL C. MANGELSDORF, and KATE PECK KENT. Boulder, 1958. University of Colorado Press. University of Colorado Studies. Series in Anthropology, 7. Figures. Charts. Plates. Bibliography. Pp. vii, 121. Paper. \$3.50.

This monograph, a model of its kind, reports a series of investigations made in northern Mexico between 1951 and 1955. It was anticipated that the work would throw light on early connections between Mesoamerica and the Southwest. This was not realized, but significant new information was obtained on the Mogollon culture of the Southwest.

Test excavations were made in eight caves, some of which contain cliff dwellings, and three occupational horizons are recognized. The earliest, which is scantily represented in the lower levels of only one cave, is not culturally identifiable but appears to date prior to A. D. 700. It yielded evidences of agriculture, but no trace of pottery was found. The two succeeding horizons are identified with the Mogollon culture and appear to represent the period of A. D. 700 to 1100. Prior to Lister's work these sites had been attributed to

the Casas Grandes culture. Lister believes that these people had moved into northern Mexico from the Mogollon area of Arizona and New Mexico. After occupying the caves for several hundred years, they abandoned the Sierra Madre area, and Lister intriguingly suggests that they may have moved eastward to initiate the Casas Grandes culture of Chihuahua.

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*The Art of the Ancient Maya.* By ALFRED KIDDER II and CARLOS SAMAYOA CHINCHILLA. New York, 1959. Crowell. 99 photographs. Pp. 140.

This is a handsome exhibition monograph which appeared on the occasion of the display of archaeological objects that toured the United States during 1959. No study collection of books about American Indian civilization should be without this illustrated catalogue. Unlike earlier shows with approximately the same title, this one contains more objects from the Guatemalan highland cultures and from the very early pre-classic horizons, than from Yucatán and classic or post-classic time.

Many of the principal items came on loan from the Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología in Guatemala, and have never before been seen in this country. Other objects were loaned by the University Museum in Philadelphia and the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane University. Others come from the Museum of the American Indian and the Museum of Primitive Art, both in New York City, and still others from Peabody Museum at Harvard and from Yale University Art Gallery.

The selections aimed to stress the Maya of Guatemala rather than Mexico, and to present previously unpublished pieces or photographs. Two introductory essays, by Kidder on habitat and chronology and by Samayoa on art and symbolism, afford an introduction for the beginner. The photographs by Reuben Goldberg of the University

Museum are of his usual high quality, and each piece has a complete catalogue entry.

GEORGE KUBLER

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*The Art of Two Worlds. Studies in Pre-Columbian and European Cultures.* By ALFRED B. SCHUSTER. New York, 1959. Frederick A. Praeger. Figures. Plates. Index. Pp. 189. Cloth. \$10.00.

In this book the pre-Columbian and colonial arts of the Americas are compared and contrasted with European styles. The author points out the limitations of Toynbee's classification of cultures and the fallacy of a purely historical approach to early civilizations. Chapters on sculpture, painting, architecture, music and dance, literature, language and science present pertinent observations as to the differences in the "fundamental thinking processes." Schuster's thesis is that the American Indian has a plastic three-dimensional concept, in contrast to the linear or painterly preferences of European art. He wisely cautions against the *fata morgana* of the trans-Pacific importation of pre-Columbian civilization.

Among the 32 well-printed plates, a Maya relief is paired with one from classical Greece, the Caracol in Chichén Itzá with the mausoleum of Theodoric in Ravenna, and the architectural complex of the acropolis at Piedras Negras, Mexico, with the Spanish stairs in Rome. The 164 pages of text are augmented by 22 pages of commentary on the plates, offering considerable information and elucidation. The author displays an excellent knowledge of the vast literature of his various subjects. It is a refreshing work, with many original observations and the understanding and love of the arts of both worlds.

PÁL KELEMEN

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*Excavations at La Venta, Tabasco, 1955.* By PHILIP DRUCKER, ROBERT F. HEIZER, and ROBERT J. SQUIER.

Washington, 1959. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology. Bulletin 170. Frontispiece. Illustrations. Appendixes by JONAS E. GULLBERG, GARNISS H. CURTIS, and A. STARKER LEOPOLD. Bibliography. Index. Pp. viii, 312.

This volume reports in great detail the extensive excavations of 1955 at La Venta, an isolated ceremonial center of the remarkable Olmec culture of southern Mexico. Considerable manpower was used to uncover areas that promised to throw light on the major constructional features at this site. Most of the work was done in Complex A, a court area just north of a truncated pyramid over 100 feet high. The results of this massive operation were gratifying, for important information was obtained on what was obviously a carefully planned ceremonial complex involving the nearby pyramid, a large ceremonial court, stone and brick-faced platforms, and several earthen mounds. With these structures were associated sculptured stone monuments and stelae, as well as a large number of dedicatory offerings that included mosaic pavement masks, pottery vessels, ceremonial celts, concave stone mirrors, human figurines and numerous ornaments made of jade, serpentine, and rock crystal.

Four constructional phases are demonstrated for Complex A, and a series of radiocarbon dates is interpreted by the authors as indicating a time span of 800 to 400 B. C. for this complex. They assign La Venta to the Formative or Preclassic stage of Mesoamerica. The concluding section of this volume contains a very useful résumé of opinion concerning the status of the Olmec culture.

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*Juan de Valdés y el pensamiento religioso europeo en los siglos XVI y XVII.* By DOMINGO RICART. Mexico City, 1958. El Colegio de México. Index. Pp. 139. Paper.

Juan de Valdés is known in Spanish history as one of the Erasmists who