

rate description available of the coffee industry in these areas today.

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The Cruise of the Portsmouth, 1845-1847. A Sailor's View of the Naval Conquest of California. By JOSEPH T. DOWNEY. Edited by HOWARD LAMAR. New Haven, 1958. Yale University Library. Preface by ARCHIBALD HANNA, JR. Editor's Introduction. Sketch. Index. Pp. xxi, 246. Cloth. \$6.00.

Appearing almost simultaneously with Fred B. Rogers' *Montgomery and the Portsmouth*, the two volumes form a unit of new material on the United States Pacific Fleet, with emphasis on the Mexican War period. In 1955 a manuscript turned up, proving to be the interesting sea journal of Ordinary Seaman Joseph T. Downey, USN, writing under the pseudonym Fore Peak. Uniqueness results from the comments being those of a man who sailed before the mast, rather than the usual officer's narrative.

Basically the book is made up of "sea stories" or sailors' yarns. Identity of participants was purposely masked by the writer, sometimes so well as to baffle the modern editor. Downey's work is punctuated by occasional attempts at poetry, and stories follow generally the itinerary of the cruise. Stops at Rio de Janeiro, Valparaiso, Callao, Hawaii, Acapulco, Mansinilla (*sic*), and Mazatlán are prelude to participation in the occupation of northern California and reconquest of southern California as foot soldiers with General Kearny and Commodore Stockton.

Editorial notes are generally satisfactory, while maps and a color illustration enhance the treatment.

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Cultural Surveys of Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras. By RICHARD N. ADAMS. Washington,

D. C., 1957. Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Scientific Publications, 33. Appendices. Maps. Tables. Graphs. References. Pp. iii, 669. Paper.

Adams' study of Central America is one of the best surveys in the field of cultural anthropology. The author outlines the "skeletons" of little known cultures in Central America by combining census material with new ethnographic data obtained through surveys. Investigation focused on rural mestizo culture which Adams labels as "Spanish-American countryman culture."

The primary purpose of the Central American surveys is to provide a regional background for workers in programs of public health, public works, and agriculture. Adams initiated the survey while working as a consultant to the World Health Organization in Central America in 1953 when he found that the paucity of systematic knowledge of that area was a severe handicap to applied work. He also designed his area study as a supplement to the anthropological community study permitting the anthropologist to generalize on the extent to which a given community represents a culture area. The surveys provide a valuable aid for research and applied anthropology in the Central American area. A similar survey of Mexico would be useful.

This volume differs from the usual survey in two major respects: 1) It develops ethnographic survey techniques instead of relying on sociological methods; 2) The author points out the limitations of the survey method which, at best, can yield only a superficial view of culture.

These surveys covered 30 to 50 towns in each of the five countries included in the volume. Three to five hours was the average amount of time allowed for collection of data in each community. The author specifies that no profound insight into local culture could be obtained in such short time. Sections on population, languages, agriculture, transportation, commerce, and other aspects of overt culture are far superior to the sketchy material on covert cul-