

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-

ture. Virtually worthless sections on religion and magic show that covert culture cannot be investigated by surveys.

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Economic Policy Revolution and Industrialization in Latin America. By PEDRO C. M. TEICHERT. University, Miss., 1959. Bureau of Business Research, University of Mississippi. Tables. Bibliography. Pp. xviii, 282. Paper. \$7.00.

This book is useful for the factual information the author has assembled on certain specific developments in Latin America—such as state enterprises in Uruguay, the Salte and Lafer plans in Brazil, and the merchant marine of Argentina. As for the rest, it is not an impressive work. It is unsystematic and repetitive, and it contains a good deal of loose reasoning as well as a fair number of inconsistent statements. These shortcomings are most apparent when the author is handling questions of interpretation, general ideas, and theoretical propositions. Continuity of argument is often lacking because extraneous factual material is introduced or because attention is shifted from the central question to some overlapping propositions of marginal relevance.

The economic policy revolution featured in the title of the book is the well-known trend towards economic diversification and industrialization in Latin America. The author writes about these developments with strong feeling and high optimism, using such phrases as tremendous growth, rapid change, booming economies, and the tapping of vast resources. There is no doubt that Latin American countries have been making economic advances in recent years. But there are problems as well, and although Mr. Teichert mentions some of them, he is apparently not interested to explore them. For this reason, his views on Latin American industrialization seem less realistic than

those of many other writers who have dealt with the same subject.

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Morazán y la federación centroamericana. By ARTURO HUBERTO MONTES. Mexico City, 1958. Libro Mex Editores. Prologue by LUIS ANDRÉS ZÚÑIGA. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 381. Paper.

Montes proposes in this book to better acquaint Honduras with her patriotism, Morazán. He succeeds in this task. His style exhibits painstaking research. This at times burdens the reader with overly-detailed incidents and unimportant matters. The heavy documentation of the family history of Morazán detracts from the real value of the book. But, in spite of this shortcoming, the author has produced a book of great merit because he has incorporated documents of much value.

Montes shows a keen knowledge of constitutional law and its relationship to the socio-economic conditions of the day. His interpretation of the failure of the Central American Union shows great understanding. On page 232, he says, "The first constitution of the United States of Central America was an exact copy of the constitution of the United States of America . . . this was a grave error . . . because the historical, sociological, political, economic, and cultural factors (of Central America) were not taken into account."

He is not biased, for on pp. 267-268, he details the role of the clergy in the fight for separatism—a fact most writers fail to mention. The account of Morazán's death was done superbly. It has drama, meaning, and action.

Montes has contributed an important work to further the study of Central American unity.

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Rödskind och madonnor. Latinamerikansk resa i rum och tid. By ERIK HJALMAR LINDER. Stockholm 1958.